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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Missile Force Commander on Effect of START II Treaty *[Moscow TV]* 1
Colonel Views Question of Ukrainian Nuclear Disarmament *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 22 Dec]* 1

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Leaders Support Holding CIS Summit on 22 Jan *[ITAR-TASS]* 3
Defense Aide Meets With Baltic States' Representatives *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 6 Jan]* 3
Interrepublic Customs Arrangements Examined *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 6 Jan]* 3

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Moscow To Join U.S. Supercollider Research Project *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
U.S. Suspends Agriculture Credits to Russia *[Russian TV]* 5
Yeltsin To Sign Various Documents During India Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
Observer Views Military Team's Gulf Tour, Iraqi Policy *[Moscow International]* 5
Chinese Minister Optimistic Over Economic Cooperation *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
Oil Supply Agreement Reached With Kazakhstan *[Moscow TV]* 6
14th Commander Views Army's Role in Dniester *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 6 Jan]* 6

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Fedorov Emphasizes Need To Continue Economic Reforms *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
Appointment of New Administration Chief Assessed *[Radio Rossii]* 10
Defense Official: State Must Back Law With Force *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 30 Dec]* 11
Official Urges Reshaping of Nationalities Policy *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 4 Jan]* 12
Stankevich Discusses Work as Presidential Adviser *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 6 Jan]* 14
New Health Minister Nechayev Profiled *[IZVESTIYA 6 Jan]* 15
Article Examines Army Draft Shortfall, Resources *[IZVESTIYA 6 Jan]* 16

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Delegation Meets Egyptian Counterparts *[ITAR-TASS]* 17

Regional Affairs

Tatarstan President To Attend Clinton Inauguration *[INTERFAX]* 18
Stavropolye, Chechnya Hold Talks To Stabilize Caucasus *[Radio Rossii]* 18
Voronezh Oblast To Accept Troops Along Ukraine Border *[Russian TV]* 18

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kuchma on Links With Russia, Other Topics *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 5 Jan]* 19
Economic Exchange Problems With Russia Viewed *[IMENEM ZAKONU 4 Dec]* 22
Documents To Be Signed During Kravchuk Visit to Israel *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Sri Lankans Detained at Border, Sent to Moscow *[INTERFAX]* 23

National Affairs

Defense Minister Reinstates Dismissed Naval Officers *[Kiev International]* 23
Communist Leader on Prospects for New Party *[PRAVDA 6 Jan]* 23
National Space Agency Drafts Program *[Kiev International]* 25

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Shushkevich Gives Briefing on PRC Visit, START, Economy *[Minsk Radio]* 26
Begins Official PRC Visit *[ITAR-TASS]* 26
KGB Chief Interviewed on Investigation of Corruption Cases *[ZVYAZDA 20 Nov]* 26
Decree on Report of KGB Chief at the Supreme Council *[ZVYAZDA 1 Dec]* 27
Decree on Draft Project of Military Defense Doctrine *[ZVYAZDA 1 Dec]* 28
Decree on Military Service Outside Republic *[ZVYAZDA 1 Dec]* 28
Minsk Oblast Communists Hold Constituent Conference *[CHYRVONAYA ZMENA 23-29 Nov]* .. 28
Political Leader on U.S. Note on Referendum Rejection *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 28 Nov]* 29

Moldova

Snegur To Visit Paris at Mitterrand's Invitation *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 29
Nongovernmental Organizations Send Memorandum to CSCE, UN *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 29

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev To Attend 22 Jan Minsk CIS Summit *[Moscow Radio]* 31
Nazarbayev Meets With European Bank President *[ITAR-TASS]* 31
European Bank To Give Credit *[INTERFAX]* 31
Economic Corporation Chief Meets Premier Tereshchenko *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 31
Alma-Ata, Tehran To Promote Shipping Trade *[INTERFAX]* 32
Daily Reports 4 Billion Rubles To Be Spent on Arms *[Russian TV]* 32

Kyrgyzstan

President Opposes 'Authoritarian Regime' *[INTERFAX]* 32
President Wants 'Active, Functioning' CIS *[Moscow Radio]* 32

Tajikistan

Further on State of Emergency, Arms Confiscation *[ITAR-TASS]* 32
Acting Commmander Says Peacekeeping Forces 'Unlikely' *[Moscow Radio]* 33
Government Announces Plans To Repair War Damage, Economy *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Mountainous Regions Experiencing Critical Food Shortages *[ITAR-TASS]* 33
Parliament Head Says Leadership Committed to Human Rights *[INTERFAX]* 33
Salimov Named Khatlon Oblast Executive Committee Chairman *[Dushanbe Radio]* 33
Commentary Ponders Future of Central Asia *[Dushanbe Radio]* 33
*Strongholds Seized with Russian, Uzbek Aid *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 22 Dec]* 34

Turkmenistan

President Comments on CIS Mechanism, Country's Future *[ITAR-TASS]* 34

Uzbekistan

President Continues To Support CIS *[Moscow Radio]* 35
Karimov Warns Against Muslim Fundamentalism *[INTERFAX]* 35
Karimov Announces 80 Tons of Gold Mined in 1992 *[INTERFAX]* 35

CAUCASUS

Armenia

U.S.-Russian Statement 'Success' for Armenian Diplomacy *[SNARK]* 36
Fighting Updated; Power Stations Depleting Lake Sevan *[Moscow Radio]* 36
French President Promises Humanitarian Assistance *[Yerevan Radio]* 36
Presidential, Parliamentary Elections Set for Fall *[SNARK]* 37

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Appeals to Bush, Yeltsin, Agrees to Cooperate *[Baku Radio]* 37
Meeting To Be Held With Armenia on POW Issue *[INTERFAX]* 38
Attack in Northwest Repulsed; Lachin Battle Goes On *[TURAN]* 38
Ministry Reports Downing of Armenian Helicopter *[ITAR-TASS]* 38
Foreign Ministry Protests Armenian 'Propaganda' *[TURAN]* 38
Parliament Adopts Law on Privatization *[AZERTAC]* 38
New Party Registers With Justice Ministry *[ASSA-IRADA]* 38
Turkey Says it Will Not Aid Armenian Aggressors *[Radio Rossii]* 39
Tehran, Baku Create 2 Free Trade Zones *[INTERFAX]* 39
Gas Supply From Turkmenistan Reduced *[ITAR-TASS]* 39

Georgia

Shevardnadze Reveals Talks With Russia To Take Place *[INTERFAX]* 39
Shevardnadze Meets Sakharov Committee Vice President *[ITAR-TASS]* 39
Spokesman Denies Reports of Shevardnadze Heart Attack *[INTERFAX]* 40
Troops Said To Shoot Down Russian Plane in Abkhazia *[INTERFAX]* 40
Abkhazian Statement on Plane Downing *[ITAR-TASS]* 40
'Resolute Steps' Urged in Abkhazian War *[IZVESTIYA 6 Jan]* 40
Artillery Fire Reported Along Eshera-Sukhumi Front *[ITAR-TASS]* 41
Power Lines Supplying Sukhumi Sabotaged *[ITAR-TASS]* 41

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Trade Union Leaders Protest New Draft Wage Scale *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 42
Unguarded Toxic Missile Fuel Poses Threat *[ETA NEWS BULLETIN]* 42

Latvia

Godmanis on Energy Supply, IMF, Russian Troops *[BNS]* 42
Russia Said Smuggling in Soldiers 'Secretly' *[Riga Radio]* 43
Government Forcasting Large Budget Deficit *[Riga Radio]* 43
Legislature Rejects Amendments To Citizenship Resolution *[BNS]* 43

Lithuania

Lubys Holds Talks With Polish Prime Minister *[BALTFAX]* 43
Government's Price Cuts, Wage Increases Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 6 Jan]* 44
Eight Presidential Candidates Submit Applications *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 44
Brazauskas on Candidacy *[ELTA NEWS BULLETIN]* 45
Political Neutral Named Chief of Security Services *[IZVESTIYA 6 Jan]* 45
Seimas Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics *[BNS]* 45
Seimas Preparing To Discuss 1993 Budget *[BALTFAX]* 45

Missile Force Commander on Effect of START II Treaty

LD0701210593 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Interview with I.D. Sergeyev, commander in chief of the Russian strategic missile troops, by correspondent A. Nasibov; place and date not given—recorded; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Nasibov] Strategic intercontinental ballistic missiles with a multiple reentry vehicle and individual targeting have always been and currently remain the most important part of the nuclear triad of the former Soviet Union and now Russia. What is going to happen to them under the recently signed START II Treaty?

[Sergeyev] Heavy missiles with multiple reentry vehicles and individual guidance will be fully liquidated by the year 2003, in accordance with the START II Treaty. But this does not mean that we are losing our place and role within the framework of the strategic nuclear forces because of the complete change in the ratio of strategic offensive weapons on both sides. Throughout the whole liquidation program not a single missile will be liquidated whose warranty period [garantiynyy srok] has not expired.

[Nasibov] The Russian nuclear arsenal will retain between 3,000 and 3,500 warheads, as will the U.S. arsenal. What is your opinion: Will it make a significant change in our country's level of defense?

[Sergeyev] As the armaments levels decree, the advantages of their specifications, their quality, and infrastructure are levelled out. According to our estimates, the ratio of potentials of a counterforce strike and retaliatory strike is now approximately 2:1 or 2.5:1. When the levels go down they could both be equally reduced to zero.

Colonel Views Question of Ukrainian Nuclear Disarmament

AU0401125793 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 22 Dec 92 p 7

[Article by Colonel Valeriy Izmalkov, people's deputy: "A Nuclear Missile Is Not a Stone Axe"]

[Text] I will start with an attempt to determine: Against whom are these weapons to be used? A number of deputies openly point to Ukraine's northern neighbor as an enemy. We know that there are political forces in Romania, Poland, and Czechoslovakia that have territorial claims on Ukraine (in this respect, the most powerful and the most aggressive forces are in Romania). Will a strategic nuclear missile with a range of over 8,500 km stop the aggressor in any of the aforementioned countries? (The distance from Kiev to the extreme western point of Romania, along a straight line, is just 1,000 km).

On the other hand, let us take the force of the charge. During the existence of the USSR, one of the military academies conducted a mathematical modelling of possible results of launching one SS-24 missile with six warheads with 300 kilotonnes each at Cape Canaveral (in the state of Florida in the United States). In three days, the level of radioactive contamination of the entire territory of the United States and Canada would have exceeded, by a factor of 60 (!), the level of contamination in the 30-km zone of the Chernobyl atomic electric power plant. The only difference is in that the half-life of the radioactive substances in the Chernobyl area allows one to hope that life there will be restored by the middle of the next century, whereas the half-life of the substances that would result from the explosion for military purposes amounts to 34,000 years.

Then, against whom are these weapons to be used? One of the deputies told me directly that he needs these weapons to restore stability in our region by blackmailing the United States.

The Americans are not only people of action, but they also have a sense of humor. For today's Iraq, they have coined a definition: "a potentially aggressive country." If a corresponding definition is also found for us, then our international isolation will be guaranteed. Deputies M. Porovskyy, S. Khmara, V. Tolubko, and other advocates of maintaining nuclear weapons are saying that the United States and other countries will only sit with us at the negotiating table and discuss credits or technological aid if a hedge of missiles rises behind the Ukrainian president's back.

I want to recall that Ukraine's economic situation does not give us grounds to speak about a possibility to overcome the crisis on our own. Therefore, we cannot do without the help from the West. Kyrgyzstan, which never had nuclear weapons, was the second country that received the most-favored-nation status in trade with the United States; and the third country was Belarus, which had specified its attitude toward such weapons.

The second problem regarding the nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine is technical. This type of weapon may be divided into two components—the means of delivery and the warhead proper. Things are more or less clear where the means of delivery are concerned: We have strategic bombers, and we have launch vehicles that are manufactured in Ukraine. Just two things must be pointed out here. We do have bombers, but they have nothing to carry: The bombs and cruise missiles of this class were transferred to Russia in May, and our bombers are not equipped to carry strategic missile warheads. There is yet another aspect dealing with missiles: There are 176 launchers on the territory of Ukraine; 130 of them are of the old type—with liquid propellant (they were manufactured in Russia); 46 are of the new type—using solid propellant (manufactured in Ukraine). Well, each of those 130 missiles of the old type has 100 tonnes of oxidizer that is particularly harmful ecologically (there is an opinion that 1 gram of such oxidizer is sufficient to poison an entire city). In Ukraine, there is still no technology to reprocess it and no capacities or territory to load 6,500 railroad cisterns with this oxidizer.

Nor do we have technologies to destroy solid-fuel launch vehicles. For the time being, it is proposed that they be destroyed either with the help of an explosion or by burning them on the stand. The burning of one launch vehicle may leave a large city without oxygen, and an experimental explosion of a launch tube with a launch vehicle in Siberia has left no hope that life in the area may be restored for about 30 years.

The situation is even more complicated in the case of nuclear warheads. The warheads are manufactured in Russia. All the specialists are also there. Every warhead has its own "godfather" among designer scientists—he and he alone can conduct scheduled work. I think that many people still remember all that hullabaloo during the period of the unilateral declaration of the moratorium on nuclear explosions. All leaders of nuclear powers stated that according to specialists, nuclear weapons cannot exist without nuclear tests. I would like to ask the adherents of the nuclear status: Where are they going to get nuclear equipment to create explosions and where are they going to conduct those explosions? Without technical maintenance, without constant monitoring, without testing the weapons themselves, without nuclear explosion tests, and without services provided by scientific research and design institutes, those warheads will become dangerous by themselves in some five to seven years.

Finally, the following question: In whose hands are these weapons? The United States, France, and Great Britain, which all possess nuclear weapons are countries with established democratic traditions and with well-ordered civil control. There, weapons, including nuclear ones, do serve to maintain stability.

In our country, the processes of democratization are just starting. It is not known whom political winds will blow to the surface tomorrow. Those people who by force of inertia are called democrats have already exhibited orthodox bolshevism. Those leaders who called themselves democrats very quickly contracted the ideology of hawks. How will they behave if the entire democratic world turns its back on them as a result of the unpredictability of their conduct?

The question of canceling the nuclear status could be raised if tactical or operational tactical nuclear weapons had still been stationed on the territory of Ukraine. This class of weapons would have conformed to Ukraine's strategic tasks in terms of the range or power of the charges. Where were M. Porovskyy, S. Khmara, V. Tolubko, and their supporters at that time? These weapons were taken to Russia. Ambitions alone have remained.

I would like to conclude this article with a question. What answer will ordinary people give after they learn what the possession of nuclear weapons involves? What will they say when they look at empty shelves of stores knowing the cost of strategic missiles? What will they say if they find out how many billions must be spent on the elaboration, designing, and implementation of nuclear programs?

Leaders Support Holding CIS Summit on 22 Jan

LD0701182393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1752 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 7 TASS—The leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have expressed support to the idea of holding a CIS summit meeting in Minsk on January 22.

Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev is determined to press for concrete moves aimed at developing and filling with substance previous CIS agreements, the presidential press service said on Thursday.

Kazakhstan and four Central Asian states—Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan—which held a meeting in Tashkent on Monday [4 January] to discuss prospects for the creation of a common market in the region and to support the Commonwealth of Independent States, agreed to preserve the rouble as a common currency if it remains a "supra-national currency" and if the CIS states forge a banking union and pursue concerted investment policies.

The Commonwealth should promote mutually beneficial relations between its members and take into account their interests. However, 200 decisions adopted by the leaders of CIS states have remained stillborn so far, Nazarbayev said.

Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev also said he will attend the summit meeting. "We were ready to participate in such a meeting on December 4 as was scheduled and later when it was postponed until the end of last year. We are ready to take an active part in this upcoming meeting as well," Akayev told ITAR-TASS by phone.

He said his position on the Commonwealth of Independent States remains unchanged, but stressed the Commonwealth should be an effective and viable mechanism, not a "formal structure."

Uzbek President Islam Karimov believes the summit in Minsk will become a turning point in the development of the Commonwealth. "I believe it is too early to bury the Commonwealth of Independent States, although it has failed to justify hopes so far. But possibilities for mutually advantageous partnership and cooperation are far from being exhausted," Karimov said.

The Uzbek president's intentions to attend the CIS summit meeting remain unchanged. The president is preparing for the summit, the president's press service said on Thursday.

If the meeting produces no results, the heads of five Asian republics of the former Soviet Union will hold an emergency meeting in Ashgabat to discuss their further moves.

[Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1500 GMT on 7 Jan adds: "The president of Kazakhstan will take part in the 22 January Minsk meeting of Commonwealth heads of state. This was announced today to a KAZTAG correspondent by the press service of Nursultan Nazarbayev. It is expected that he will adopt a firm, unambiguous position aimed at the development of and giving specific content to those accords that were agreed previously within the framework of the CIS. In the opinion of the president of Kazakhstan, the Commonwealth should be clearly built on mutually beneficial relations of all the sovereign states, without exception.

["In the meantime, around 200 resolutions adopted by the leaders of the countries participating in the CIS are not working."]

Defense Aide Meets With Baltic States' Representatives

PM0701120593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Jan 93 p 1

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Press Service report: "Meeting at Russian Defense Ministry"]

[Text] Colonel General V.M. Toporov, Russian Federation deputy defense minister, had a meeting in Moscow on 5 January 1993 with representatives of Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Estonia, at which questions of these countries' participation in the construction of housing and the provision of facilities for the Russian troops being withdrawn from the Baltic states were discussed on a practical plane. An accord was reached to continue working contacts on these problems.

Interrepublic Customs Arrangements Examined

PM0701120393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Jan 93 p 3

[Article by Anatoliy Kruglov, chairman of Russian State Customs Committee: "Russian State Customs Committee Chairman Anatoliy Kruglov Considers That the Idea of a Single Economic Area Is Viable: Cutting Ourselves Off in Order To Unite"]

[Text] Russians traveling to the Baltic countries and Ukraine have clearly already run into representatives of the customs services. Of all the former USSR republics bordering on Russia only Belarus and Kazakhstan did not hurry, at least until the last moment, to cut themselves off by means of border barriers, which turn administrative borders into state borders. But times change and, along with them, so does the situation. Preconditions have now appeared which mean that Russians, Belarusians, and Kazakhs will shortly have, as a popular movie of the seventies put it, to come to terms with the customs.

The point is that relations between Russia and the former republics which are now sovereign states are developing not at all in the way envisaged during the creation of the CIS.

I would divide all our neighbors from nearby foreign parts into three groups: The first group comprises the

Baltic states, which declared from the outset their disagreement with the existence of a single customs area and did not join the CIS. Trade and economic arrangements with them will clearly be the same as between Russia and Western countries on the basis of international commitments.

The second group consists of the CIS states which did not sign the agreement on the principles of customs policy last March—Ukraine and Azerbaijan—plus Georgia, which is not part of the Commonwealth. No matter how vexatious this may be, foreign economic relations and, consequently, customs arrangements with them will have to be the same as in the first case. By edict of the Russian Federation president, a customs border has already been established with them. The equipping of temporary checkpoints for goods is going ahead at full speed. Moreover, a whole network of internal customs establishments is being set up to facilitate this process. This is an innovation for us. There are now around 400 of them.

In the future we have it in mind to set up establishments in every Russian oblast, airport, and port and to increase their number to 750. Their main function of course is not to turn over passengers' baggage but to carry out the registration of goods, particularly foreign economic goods, for customs purposes. I think that people who are unprepared will initially find it difficult to cope with filling out the customs goods declaration, which covers several dozen points. But you do not want to fall foul of the regulations here, that is no solution—your good name is more important.

The situation concerning the first two groups is perfecly clear. That cannot be said of the third group, which is made up of the nine CIS states which signed the agreement on the principles of customs policy in March. I would make clear that, of all these former republics, only Belarus and Kazakhstan have a common border with Russia. It would appear that the borders with them will be transparent. But my qualification here is not accidental. There are certain reasons for this.

The main reason is that, although the agreement was signed half a year ago, it has not come into force because it has not been ratified by the parliaments of the republics. Moreover, the previous attributes—uniform customs rules and tariffs and a consolidated external border—without which the preservation of a single economic area becomes problematic, are being gradually lost. We know that Belarus is drafting its own customs legislation, while Kazakhstan already has done so. Work on similar normative documents is also under way here, in Russia. The real consequence of this "unification in reverse" will be to turn our present administrative borders into a bottleneck for goods wanting to pass between the deeply integrated economies of all three neighboring countries.

The absurdity of this continuation of the notorious parade of sovereignties is obvious. We will thereby demonstrate to the whole civilized world yet again that it is our ineradicable characteristic to go about everything contrariwise.

Meanwhile experts of world standing predict that the process of uniting the former USSR republics on the basis of economic advantage is inevitable. And that is borne out by our own experience.

The customs union concluded by Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and a number of former union republics which do not directly border on Russia can still be preserved. This does not need large expenditure but only the goodwill of the people in charge of the question of ratifying the agreement. The economic benefit of an economy operating normally and of the billions of rubles not spent on redundant border facilities makes it worth the politicians' while to keep their emotions in check.

Moscow To Join U.S. Supercollider Research Project

LD0701125093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1229 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington January 7 TASS—U.S. Secretary of Energy James Watkins on Wednesday signed an intergovernmental agreement between this federal department and the Russian Federation Ministry for Atomic Energy on an expansion of the programme for cooperation in the development of a superconducting supercollider. Earlier the agreement was signed in Moscow by Russian Ministry Chief Viktor Mikhailov.

The huge research project with overall costs of eight billion dollars is being implemented in Texas with the participation of 46 highly qualified Russian specialists. Russia is the third country to join the project, after China and India.

This historic agreement envisages Russia's participation in designing engineering equipment and production of two preaccelerators. The agreement is an illustration that yet another cornerstone has been laid in bilateral versatile cooperation, Mr. Watkins told ITAR-TASS.

The creation of a supercollider will become an outstanding achievement in world science and will be of benefit to the Russian Federation and the United States. Russia is a remarkable and great country which is embarking on the road of democratic development. Our duty is not only to help the Russian people but also develop versatile cooperation in various branches of science and technology, he said.

The importance of the conclusion of this agreement, which determines conditions for cooperation between the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry and the U.S. Energy Department in the development of a superconducting supercollider and joint research in the field of high-nergy physics has many aspects, Vladimir Lukin, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the U.S., told ITAR-TASS.

"To us, this agreement is yet another recognition of the high professional standards of Russian scientists and engineers and of their contribution to world science. This is a realistic field for the application of the efforts of our specialists and the opportunity to carry on productive scientific cooperation with counterparts from the United States, India, South Korea, and the European countries," Lukin said.

U.S. Suspends Agriculture Credits to Russia

LD0701151193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The United States has suspended the granting of new agricultural credits to Russia until the money owed on previous loans has been paid.

Currently, the amount of Russia's overdue debts is more than $127 million.

Yeltsin To Sign Various Documents During India Visit

LD0701161693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1312 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Text] New Delhi January 7 TASS—A package of important documents, covering a broad spectrum of political, trade, economic, military-and-technical, scientific and cultural contacts, is to be signed during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming official visit to India at the end of January.

Analysts believe that a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, which is intended to virtually replace the 1971 Soviet-Indian Treaty, will be of basic importance for the future of Russian-Indian relations.

According to high-ranking sources in the Indian Foreign Ministry, during the visit the Russian president will have meetings with Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Vice-President Kocheril Raman Narayanan.

Talks between Yeltsin and Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao will be a centrepiece of the programme. During the talks the two sides will thoroughly discuss matters related to bilateral relations and exchange views on topical international and regional problems.

Commenting on the forthcoming visit, the local press emphasises that it must promote stronger cooperation between India and Russia which proceed along the road of reforms and determine prospects for the two countries' contacts in various fields under new conditions brought about by the Soviet Union's receding into the past and cardinal changes in the world situation.

Observer Views Military Team's Gulf Tour, Iraqi Policy

LD0701140493 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1210 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Commentary by military affairs observer Valeriy Chebotaryev]

[Text] A military delegation from Russia has completed its visit to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. More from our military affairs observer Valeriy Chebotaryev.

[Chebotaryev] It was planned that Russia's delegation would be led by Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. Regrettably, Gen. Grachev had to cut short the trip because of his father's death. Nonetheless, the first

military tour of the Persian Gulf countries at such a level testifies to Russia's interest and readiness to play an ever greater role in the region, not only because of its relative proximity to Russia's borders but also because it continues to be a dangerous seat of international tension.

The former USSR, guided notably by ideological principles, preferred the partners who would support its foreign policy, at least in words. Such a one-sided approach is alien to Russia today. This country sees its task in fostering good-neighborly ties with all states, regardless of their political orientation.

Russia's policy in the Persian Gulf is a case in point. It is now promoting all-round cooperation, even with those countries with which it had no contacts at all in the recent past. On this basis, Russia intends to pursue a line towards settling differences arising in the region by peaceful means and to contribute to forming there a security system damaging no one's interests.

You may wonder how the visit by Russia's military delegation to the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait should be regarded in such a case. Isn't it an indication of Russia's anti-Iraqi policy? After all, it's an open secret that there is such a view. The answer can only be negative. Russia's policy is not directed against Iraq and its people. Moscow has repeatedly declared that at official level. This course was also reiterated by members of the Russian military delegation. A firm advocate of keeping Iraq's sovereignty and independence intact, this country is ready to restore normal relations with it. At the same time, Russia cannot watch with indifference Iraqi actions complicating the situation in the Persian Gulf. Such actions, regrettably, continue, which is borne out at least by Baghdad's recent decision to deploy anti-aircraft missiles in the no-fly zone forbidden to flights by Iraqi planes.

With all these factors taken into account, Russia considers it its duty to cooperate as much as possible with the world community in the business of settling the Gulf crisis. Such cooperation applies to the military field as well. It is from this angle that the visit by Russia's military officials to the Persian Gulf countries should be viewed.

Chinese Minister Optimistic Over Economic Cooperation

LD0701181193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1717 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Pavel Spirin and Vladimir Fedoruk]

[Text] Beijing January 7 TASS—Economic cooperation between China and Russia has broad prospects and Russia's debt to China will not affect it, Chinese Minister of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Li Lanqing told a news conference in Beijing on Thursday.

Li Lanqing said the common border and mutually complementary economies in Russia and China are the main factors of their economic rapprochement.

Previously, the two countries developed mostly interstate trade. Now they encourage direct ties between enterprises, regions and business people. Such reorientation of bilateral trade has helped to boost trade turnover between Russia and China, the minister said. In 1992, the volume of trade between the two countries exceeded a record five billion U.S. dollars which was achieved by China and the former Soviet Union.

Li Lanqing said the problem of Russia's debt to China will be solved through discussions between Russian and Chinese experts and cannot hamper bilateral cooperation.

Oil Supply Agreement Reached With Kazakhstan

LD0701180893 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1200 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Dukesh Baimbetov report from Kazakhstan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Oil workers have reached an agreement with their Russian counterparts before the Omsk meeting between Yeltsin, Nazarbayev and the heads of the administrations of the two republics' border rayons. Under the terms of the mutually advantageous agreement, Kazakhstan is to supply 14 million tonnes of oil to Russia's refining enterprises, and in return will receive more than 12 million tonnes of oil from Western Siberia. The sides will thereby save considerable expenditure on transportation costs. Russia is also to supply equipment, and there are plans for joint oil field development. [passage omitted]

14th Commander Views Army's Role in Dniester

PM0701100393 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Jan 93 First Edition p 7

[Interview with A. Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, by Boris Sverdlov and Lyudmila Feliksova; place and date not given: "Wolves and Sheep in One Bunch"]

[Text] Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, is a well-known personality. At the center of the conflict in the Dniester region, Aleksandr Ivanovich has won glory as a man who has been able to halt bloodshed. Lebed's first appearance on the television screens and his statements caused a shock in Moldova (and not just there). The new army commander immediately revealed his position, speaking of armed neutrality. And it became absolutely clear to everyone that the general was not indulging in idle talk. He agreed to meet with us only reluctantly, but nonetheless he gave the interview. We cite it without commentary.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Aleksandr Ivanovich, in your view, how is the present situation in Moldova and the Dniester region being assessed? What is the fate of the 14th army, which is being subjected to pressure from all sides?

[Lebed] I consider it premature to comment on the situation. It has not yet become clear. Much is unclear. And I could be wide of the mark, to which I am not accustomed. I don't care about pressure from either side: That is a nonstarter.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] The joint control commission created to settle the conflict has stated that its functions are exhausted. A dangerous pause has emerged which could lead to a new spiral of tension. One forms the impression that neither side is interested in the results of the dialogue.

[Lebed] Here I fully agree with you. The commission is resolving virtually nothing now except petty tactical issues. The talks should long have been switched to a higher state level. Neither side is eager for that, at least according to the reports at my disposal. Outwardly everything seems calm. In Bendery militiamen and police are peacefully "grazing" together. There is a diarchy in the city: two prosecutor's offices, two courts, police and militia, executive committee and city hall—lambs, sheep, and wolves all together. And no one knows how long this situation can continue.

You cannot help concluding that for many of those in power on both banks peace is disadvantageous for a whole series of reasons.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Could you work them out?

[Lebed] Well, take the smallest reason. War is always murky water in which a large fish can be caught. There are all kinds of types of aid which can be used as you wish. The aid arrives but often fails to reach those for whom it is intended. There is also the possibility of earning a certain political image: On the other side tribute is being paid to nationalism, on this side to the conservation of the republic and the protection of the Russian-speaking population. Human rights have become a current populist phrase.

Peace is also not to their advantage because it means primarily law and order and there are enough culprits on both banks. The artificially maintained tension—five months of peace and not a single political decision—enables them to keep afloat. Russia is understandably more concerned now by something else—the Caucasus and Central Asia—and here there is deceptive outward calm with powerful inner tension. On this is imposed the catastrophic decline in the living standard. On both sides approximately the same processes are under way: a mass of people with uncontrolled weapons, and the flourishing of racketeering. Virtually all commercial structures, all without exception, I insist on that point, have to pay protection money. Now state enterprises are being approached. I know that industrialist directors are regularly telephoned by extortioners. With god's assistance I have managed to beat back this filth. But after all that is only temporary, we must fight not the effect but the cause.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Do you believe that dealers in the shadow economy may arrive?

[Lebed] Why "may?" They have already arrived. And the situation with regard to the industrialist leaders, when they have to maneuver and cringe where they should be biting is confirmation of that. And the level of production decline is already 25 percent. And when the prosecutor states that the rise of crime, according to his calculations, is only 1.4 percent, I do not believe him, because I have different information and I am now generalizing it.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Recently Moldovan Foreign Minister N. Tiu stated that the status of the Left Bank regions can only be determined after the withdrawal of the 14th army.

[Lebed] He should not be hypocritical. It is very much to the advantage of Moldova or rather to certain people in it—I would not like to offend the entire republic—for the 14th army to be withdrawn from there. When the guarantee of peace and stability in the region has been removed it is easy and simple to cope with the "separatists"—that is what the Dniester region inhabitants are called on the right bank. So that first stable, firm peace must be guaranteed. And that means the corresponding political decisions and accords. And only then is it possible to raise the question of the withdrawal of the 14th army. In this draft as it is proposed nothing will get out of here: The people will not let the army go and the army will not go of its own accord. There is no harm in dreaming, but the Russian officers will not shame themselves and will not hand over the region to be torn to pieces.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] In your view is a state formation like the Dniester Moldovan Republic viable?

[Lebed] Entirely. Why should it not be? In general there are still reasons Moldova does not want to part with this region. There is 40 percent of industry here; two thirds of electricity; fine, skilled workers; and peerless industrial enterprises. They are competitive even on the world market. There is a normal economy, the delivery of raw material is proceeding, and communications are operating. So that this region is entirely viable.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] But under what conditions do you believe it will be possible to achieve a common language in Moldova? After all it is impossible to live for long as a buffer zone.

[Lebed] I, and I stress this is a strictly personal opinion, see a way out in the use of historical precedents. For instance, Finland as part of czarist Russia was an entirely independent state. It had its own parliament, its own

army, police, and other institutions of state power, except that we had a common currency unit and open borders. It is somewhere in that sphere that we should seek an answer to the question of what to do next. And cities like Bendery will have to elaborate their own special formula—either as a free city or as a free economic zone. But first, and that is also my personal opinion, we must without fail hold a referendum, in the presence of international observers so that no one can later cast doubt on the results, and find out what kind of power citizens actually prefer.

A diarchy like the one we have now is not normal. Every minute, every hour, every day, it is fraught with the danger of a new conflict. Those who do not want to live here must be given the opportunity to leave for a new place of residence in a civilized manner. People on both banks of the Dniester (politicians are on a different level, they can divide up whatever they want), people in their mass are linked by common ties and none of them supposed that we would end up living like this. We must seek a normal way out and not give rise to crowds of refugees and more conflicts. And we must seek it now, immediately; time has already been lost. If the question of the withdrawal of the peacekeeping forces arise it will only be very late on. Russia (the Russian president) has guaranteed peace on this land and the peacekeeping military contingent which has now been brought in by agreement is a guarantee of peace.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Do you have a conflict with the Dniester Region leadership? What is its thrust?

[Lebed] I have already answered that question in practice. The crux of the matter is the reluctant to resolve questions. The absence of the slightest desire to introduce even elementary order. I would like to dissociate myself in advance from accusations of any loudmouthed soldiering, of imposing a purely paramilitary order. From the outset the authorities—partly through inexperience, partly through the fusion of state structures and mafia structures—have been idle. And since they are idle that means that a crooked building is being constructed, the center of gravity is shifting, and ultimately it will simply collapse. Every ram should carry its own horns. If the chief of the foreign relations administration states that he is not being admitted to Chisinau, then find another job, friend, and resign from your post. Why do we need generals who are no more than figureheads? Every state has the right to its share of fools, but the question is which share predominates. On both banks of the Dniester formations have appeared which are the people's militia teams of dukes and these teams' task in the extreme situation is to hold out so that the duke can cross the nearest border in his Mercedes. And after that the team can perish. That does not bother him.

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA] Aleksandr Ivanovich, there is even the opinion that this is being done deliberately so that no one can recognize the self-proclaimed republic?

[Lebed] I shall say the following: There is an artificial ploy whereby some unbridled official states: I am the power in the republic. That means I am the republic. And if you touch me you touch the republic. But the republic has absolutely nothing to do with it. It has been proclaimed by the will of the people and de facto exists. Yes, it is unrecognized, yes, there are difficulties, but I venture to assure you that it exists and will exist. A people live here who will have a republic. Its status, its recognition, its legal formula, are a separate issue, but that it will exist—of that there is no doubt. I have helped, am helping, and will help what I believe to be a true manifestation of democracy. The Dniester Moldovan Republic is the people's will embodied.

Here people live by their intelligence, they have carried out a referendum and have formed their own republic. And the leech-like officials who have rushed from the left to the right bank and sought to find where they would be best off—and that is now a typical picture with state and party officials seeking a comfortable niche for themselves—must be unequivocally removed from their posts. And the sooner the better. Everything must be put the right way up. No one has given them the right to identify themselves with the state.

The republic is serious, it is for a long time. And a normal, uncorrupt state apparatus is needed, as in any civilized country. And the people will decide for themselves whether they need these people or not. It is sad that the actual methodology for the state's construction is distorted: If I do not agree with you, the mildest response is "let's drive him out." And where is the guarantee that tomorrow it will not be "let's shoot all those who disagree with us?"

Our land has not yet run out of talent. We have plenty of intelligent, honest, respectable people.

The unique nature of the Dniester Region is that there is no interethnic conflict here in the usual sense of the word. The composition of the population on both banks is virtually the same.

I do not want to give any formulas. I know one thing for sure: That great mess of ours—perestroyka—has developed into its second stage—crossfire. So far no one knows when the third stage—exchange—will take place, and it is hard to say who will survive to see it. Nor is it clear if we will survive at all as a state formation.

We are increasingly turning into a territory with eroded borders which for the world community is becoming a supplier of cheap manpower, cheap resources, and simply an ecological cesspit. I have already said that in this situation the weather is being made by various mafia structures for which armed conflicts are advantageous. It

is the army which must fight them. And there has been enough hypocrisy about how the army's only function is to fulfill foreign assignments. If it is decided to use the troops, then we must cast aside diplomatic capering and monkey's grimaces and save the state from unbridled rogues and adventurers who should know for certain that they will not escape justice, that they do not live in a vacuum.

Fedorov Emphasizes Need To Continue Economic Reforms

LD0701183193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0929 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Fedyashin]

[Text] Washington, 7 Jan— Boris Fedorov, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers—the government—of the Russian Federation, spoke here on Wednesday in an interview to the ITAR-TASS correspondent on the need to continue consistently the course of implementing the reforms in Russia.

Replying to a question of how he assesses the current opinion in the West that the rate of the reforms in Russia would be slowed down or that this process would even be suspended, Boris Fedorov said: "There is always that risk, but it was for this that we stayed in the government, to prevent the reforms being stopped. On the whole I would say that there is no reason for pessimism, and we will fight for the continuation of the reforms. At the same time I wish to point out that the situation is difficult, and there is no reason for excessive optimism either."

Speaking of the priority tasks of the Russian Government, the deputy prime minister pointed out: "I am firmly convinced that before us stand two main tasks. The first is a hard ruble, because it 'sets the tone' for life, and production, and investment, and savings, and so on. I can make no promises or compile forecasts, but I can say that, if the measures which we will propose are carried out, then there are chances of the situation stabilizing."

Commenting on the point of view that the new Russian Government should make an "adjustment" to the Gaydar government's course, Boris Fedorov stressed: "I would not want to talk about adjusting the course. It will just be a normal policy, implementation of a bigger number of measures than before. I have in mind specific instruments of economic policy. In our country, effectively until last year, there was no economic policy at all. In our country, all the instruments of economic policy played the part of toys in the hands of the country's leadership: If I want, I raise the stakes; if I want, I lower them. We must develop an all-round understanding of our economy and try to achieve certain indices in such spheres as living standards, currency stability and inflation."

Speaking of the prospects for Russia's cooperation with the World Bank and other international financial institutions, the deputy prime minister said: "Their potential should be used sensibly. For this, specific projects are required, well calculated and well thought out. So far, the existing opportunities have unfortunately not been used—for various reasons. From our side, projects have not been well prepared, but international organizations too are not so far being active enough, and their understanding of our circumstances is not good enough."

Appointment of New Administration Chief Assessed

LD0701221993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Andrey Krasnov commentary]

[Text] The series of changes in the president's team, which has given rise to so much talk and gossip, has, it seems, contrary to expectations, not yet finished. According to an ITAR-TASS report, Boris Yeltsin has released Yuriy Petrov from the post as head of the presidential administration, and Sergey Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian parliament, has been appointed to the post. Here is my colleague Andrey Krasnov to comment:

According to ITAR-TASS, Sergey Filatov will take up his post in two weeks' time. He is at present on vacation in Pyatigorsk. In turn, Yuriy Petrov is to head the Russian state commission studying the circumstances of the destruction of the South Korean Boeing shot down in 1983 in the vicinity of Sakhalin.

All of these cadre changes have been fairly unexpected. Only just recently Yuriy Petrov was considered to be one of the closest people to Boris Yeltsin. He belonged to the so-called Sverdlovsk group. His sudden resignation and appointment to the plainly minor post of head of the Boeing commission looks like an unconcealed fall from grace. However, the reasons for his fall from grace are not at all clear, although some observers have already put forward the assumption that Yuriy Petrov's departure is linked with his indecisive conduct during the Seventh Congress of Russian People's Deputies.

Fifty-six-year-old Sergey Filatov is the new head of the presidential administration. The political career of this former scientific worker began in 1990 when he became a Russian people's deputy. At the fifth congress he was elected to the key office of first deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet. However, he was plainly unable to work in harmony with Ruslan Khasbulatov. Sergey Filatov has long been known as one of Boris Yeltsin's dedicated supporters in parliament, and the friction between him and the chairman of the Supreme Soviet over the past few months turned into almost open hostility.

It is clear that Sergey Filatov's departure from the Russian parliament will considerably weaken the president's position in the Supreme Soviet. The departure is at the same time extremely symptomatic.

All the signs are that Boris Yeltsin has finally given up the present parliament as a bad job and is preparing for a decisive fight with it at the forthcoming referendum in April.

Defense Official: State Must Back Law With Force

PM0501115193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Dec 92 p 2

[Article by Major of Justice Yuriy Zhdanov, candidate of juridical sciences and deputy head of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Military Institute Faculty of State and International Law, under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "Law and Force. Are 'Double Standards' Acceptable for Russia in International Relations"]

[Text] However much the mass media "shed light" on the situation with regard to Russian troops, say, in the Baltics, the Transcaucasus, and other "trouble spots," it nevertheless remains extremely contradictory and incomprehensible to the average citizen in our country.

Indeed, on the one hand, having stated that it adheres to the norms and principles of international law as regards the defense of human rights, Russia is conducting an intensive process of negotiation in these regions in an attempt to solve the problems of its Armed Forces in a civilized manner. But on the other hand, this very force is being continually subjected to strong psychological pressure and various types of encroachment, and is simply sustaining physical losses. A fundamental question arises: What kind of law is it that cannot really protect men in uniform? And what kind of force that cannot stand up for itself?

The idea of whipping up passions is furthest from my mind. I am not calling for us to return to the stone age, overturning the negotiating tables and conducting a dialogue from our gun emplacements. But it is my view that we should return as much as necessary to the question of the balance between force and the law, including in a specific area like the military sphere. After all, a Russian soldier, officer, or serviceman's family should feel that the Russian state and law protect them. Wherever and in whatever situation they may be.

The fact of the matter is that in practical terms the difference between the nearby foreign parts and other countries has disappeared, and the question is turning from a partial matter into one of the most important aspects of the state's foreign policy. Not only the fates of thousands of servicemen in those very regions of conflict and mutual claims, but also Russia's prestige and authority in the international community will depend on how this is resolved.

It is no accident that I am talking about the future. Nowadays the methods of bringing urgent problems "out into the open" [materializatsiya] are ineffective. Let us, by way of example, touch on the position of Russian troops in the "trouble spots." The main omission is seen as the fact that Russia's practical steps to defend its citizens' rights really amount to acting after the event. They follow in the wake of the situation, so to speak. At the same time, international lawyers have long been proposing a whole series of preventive measures.

Take the problem of refugees, which is the category to which a significant proportion of our servicemen's families unfortunately belongs. Despite the fact that, according to Russian Federation Foreign Ministry figures, there are already 250,000 such people today (independent experts give an even larger figure), we are solving this problem more or less as they would have done in the last century. Attempts are being made to mechanically resettle thousands of innocent and suffering people, which, incidentally, is costing a lot of effort and resources. But Germany, for example, is taking an entirely different path by trying first and foremost not so much to give refuge to its fellow countrymen as to provide them with good living conditions in the places where their settlements are (a convincing illustration of this is the Volga Germans). This eliminates waves of migration, the tragic nature of the situation, and the tears and heartache of thousands of people.

Or let us consider questions of a purely juridical nature. Our state organs remembered Sergey Parfenov only a year after his arrest. And Lieutenant Lukin only after he had been sentenced to death. But where is the guarantee that another Parfenov or Lukin will not appear tomorrow?

It is clear that the situation on one-sixth of the earth's surface is complex. After the USSR's collapse, none of the sovereign states which have emerged from its debris intends, so to speak, to dance to the former "big brother's" tune. But when there is equality of rights, this means that equality of responsibility is also natural. Equality before the norms of international law. The imperatives of the times are such that the norms of this law with reference to armed conflicts and human rights should begin to apply throughout CIS territory (after the parliaments have ratified it accordingly). They would be direct-acting laws, i.e. acts not requiring further interpretation, agreement, "deals," etc.

Within the framework of the above, such preventive measures as creating an international rather than "local" court on human rights within the framework of the Commonwealth could quite realistically be employed. Or the elaboration by interested departments within the CIS countries of a precise mechanism for applying legal norms in the area of armed conflicts. I think that it is not irrelevant to recall that the 1949 Geneva conventions on defending the victims of war and the 1977 additional protocols to them adopted such norms regulating the status both of the participants in armed struggle and of their victims.

People may make the objection to me: Today any side participating in the interethnic conflicts which have flared up on the former USSR's territory can ignore each of these authoritative decisions. Just as easily as, for example, the most powerful weapons are being used in Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh to destroy the civilian population, which is an unprecedented violation of the laws and customs of warfare.

But look how insistently Europe is searching for ways to calm the passions! A document was recently signed at a Council of Foreign Ministers session in Stockholm which enables the CSCE to resolve conflicts according to the formula "consensus minus two." If both the disputing sides cannot come to an agreement, the CSCE political organ, reflecting the will of the majority, simply orders them to engage in a process of reconciliation. True, this does not cover armed conflicts and situations where territorial claims are involved. But what prevents the Commonwealth, and for that matter all the states which have formed on the former Union's territory, from going further?

Of course these conclusions may seem to some people a utopian pipedream. They may say: What chance is there of all-embracing consensus when we are not even succeeding in resolving partial issues—regarding the former Union republics' "privatization" of the former Soviet Army's arms and equipment, for example? But you will agree that law which is not backed up by force is not law. And force which is not backed up by law is tyranny. It is naive to talk of justice when from a dialectical point of view it is not backed up by law and force.

Once again, not to be dogmatic and to take a realistic view of things, it is impossible to miss the fact that a whole set of double standards have developed in international relations. On the one hand, ideas of collective security, of not using force, and of being guided by the mechanisms envisaged by the UN Charter are being publicly proclaimed. But on the other hand, a number of developed, powerful countries are increasingly openly resorting to the use of force (the United States' actions in Grenada and Panama), including armed force, to defend their interests and protect the lives of their subjects abroad. It is characteristic that a conceptual basis for such actions is produced at both the national and the international levels. In effect we are witnessing a new interpretation of international law based on a tough combination of law, force, and pragmatism, an alternative to the existing interpretation. From a theoretical point of view, you can view this phenomenon how you wish. But in in practice, the average American has no doubts as to the justice of his state's stance when it takes the most resolute measures to defend the honor and rights of even a small group of his fellow citizens. Wherever they might be....

There is yet another very significant legal aspect here. The U.S. Government's well-known actions "fit into" the norms of generally accepted international law. Let me remind you. Article 55 of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) contain a norm whereby the defense of human rights in a state is not an internal matter for that state alone.

Parallelism is a well-known phenomenon in politics. In my view, if you take into consideration Russia's participation (albeit not by choice) in a whole series of both political and armed conflicts and the presence of its troops in explosive regions, it would be the best possible thing if it adopted the new "rules of the game." The rules which other powers have produced and which are based on common sense and the defense of universal human values. I want to be clear: This is not a call to "draw our guns" at any excuse. It is a matter of taking the real situation in the world into consideration. This dictates the necessity of reinterpreting the principle of the nonuse of force (or the threat of force) on the basis of mutual treaties and of formulating firm legal guarantees for defending the lives of peaceful citizens from the consequences of political instability, strife, ethnic discord, etc.

Of course, state law must strictly regulate an exhaustive list of factors for using force, the nature of the Armed Forces' actions, and the decisionmaking mechanism. And when, say, the local authorities are incapable of stopping bloodshed, disarming bandit formations, and halting the killing of citizens, including Russian servicemen, we cannot remain neutral and to rely solely on the strength of old dogmas or on blind coincidence.

I will adduce a simple fact. It is clear to the majority of specialists in the field of international relations that the concept of "self-determination, up to and including separation," which operates in our country has become completely obsolete. And if it is blindly followed, Russia may collapse just as the USSR once did. We have already had a graphic illustration of this: The poorly thought-out Law on Repressed Peoples to a certain extent triggered the Ingush-Ossetian conflict. The wisdom of the eastern peoples contains examples of how to extinguish armed clashes. For example, in the 17th century elders went as far as to hand over Svanetian babies to the Karachayev-Balkar tribes and vice versa. After this, to fire at one's neighbor meant to hit a son or brother. After this tension in the region decreased.

I repeat that I am in no way urging that such action be taken. But in this connection the recent pronouncement by the UN secretary general in Moscow seems very apt. He stated: There is no contradiction between the principle of self-determination and territorial integrity as there cannot be self-determination within an individual state. In the event of conflicts, the principle of the state's territorial integrity prevails.

In exactly the same manner, there should not, in my opinion, be a contradiction between the system of law, which binds people via respect for laws, and the force called on to protect that law. Of course the Russian state is no exception here.

Official Urges Reshaping of Nationalities Policy

PM0501095793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Jan 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Boris Miroshin, deputy chief of a department of the Russian Federation President's State-Legal Administration, under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "What Will Grow on the 'Field of Friendship': "An Olive Tree or a Weed?"]

[Text] The collapse of the Soviet Union occurred because the Union state did not fully express the interests of the people inhabiting the country. The collapse of the Russian Federation will occur for the same reason. If it occurs.

Russia does not have effective instruments for the elaboration of state nationalities policy.

Nationalities policy is a policy which takes into consideration the national interests of the nations and peoples living on the territory of the Russian Federation. These interests may be expressed directly by the population at referenda or through political associations and parties.

At this point, the majority of political parties and public organizations in Russia are at the formation stage; they do not have a firm social base, and because of this they cannot express the interests of nations and peoples objectively.

The state representative organs do not express national interests either.

In terms of its competence the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities is virtually indistinguishable from the Soviet of the Republic. The deputies in the Soviet of Nationalities do not represent nations and peoples but a territory inhabited by people of various nationalities. The deputies have no mechanisms for bringing to light the national interests of representatives of nations and peoples.

Unfortunately, the draft of the new Russian Constitution does not contain legal principles for the creation of effective mechanisms for the elaboration of a state nationalities policy.

The Russian Government contains the Russian Federation State Committee for Nationalities Policy. By its status, it is a central organ of the federal executive power which carries out intersectoral regulation. It has already been said that the name of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy does not correspond to its functions. As an administrative structure by the nature of its own formation and the methods used for forming the apparatus, it should not and cannot be involved in shaping state nationalities policy. Evidently the basic function of the State Committee for Nationalities Policy should be to implement state nationalities policy.

State nationalities policy is a broader concept than that embraced by the State Committee for Nationalities Policy. It is, rather, the function of the whole government and the president.

Both the president and the government adopt state decisions that take into account Russia's federative structure and the multiethnic composition of the country's population.

The processes that take place in this sphere are uncontrollable. Frequently the reaction of federal authorities to the "initiatives" of certain "national" leaders of "national" organs of power prove to be belated and sluggish.

The idea of the Federation Treaty was a clear attempt to find a way out of this situation. Not enough time has elapsed for us to assess the consequences of its conclusion. However, we cannot ignore the fact that the implementation of the Federation Treaty is unfolding against a backdrop of an ever-worsening economic crisis, which is favorable ground for a "weed"-like separatism to spring up. In the face of this, it is unlikely that the Federation Treaty will assist in resolving ethnic and interethnic problems. Most likely, it will not only fail to resolve them but, on the contrary, it will exacerbate them and create new ones. In other words, the olive tree—the symbol of peace—will scarcely blossom on yesterday's "field of friendship."

In other words, the practice of the implementation of the Federation Treaty amid a profound economic crisis contradicts the national interests of the peoples. Within a single Russian state there should be a single state nationalities policy.

Who can elaborate such a nationalities policy?

If nationalities policy should express the interests of nations and peoples, that means that the nations and peoples should elaborate this policy. And then, once it is formalized in the form of state legal acts, it will become state nationalities policy.

So what sort of mechanisms do we need to take into consideration the national interests of the Tatars living in the Russian Federation, for instance? The experience of the [Tatar] National Assembly shows us that such mechanisms are already beginning to be formed. Of course, legal acts are needed to regulate its formation and activity. It is not out of the question that other nations and people will travel this path too.

The interests of each and every people and each and every nation, including the smallest, and including ethnic minorities of Ukrainians, Kazakhs, and other representatives of the peoples of the former USSR who are citizens of the Russian Federation, should be represented in some kind of nongovernmental organ at federal level.

Such a nongovernmental organ could take the organizational form of an assembly of peoples of the Russian Federation. The assembly would contain representatives of every people, nation, and ethnic group. All representations would be equal in terms of the number of delegates.

The assembly and its organs would adopt decisions of a recommendatory nature. On the basis of these, state decisions could be adopted both by federal organs of state power and the organs of state power of the subjects of the Federation.

It is important that the whole complex of questions of nationalities policy is first of all examined by representatives of the peoples themselves, and only then transferred to the state organs. Questions concerning interethnic conflicts should be examined there first and foremost. An association of peoples enjoying equal rights should assess them.

In this way the national interests of the peoples of Russia, united in a nationalities policy that would take into consideration the influences of political parties and national movements at the level of assemblies of peoples of the Russian Federation, would become the state nationalities policy of the Russian Federation by passing through the Supreme Soviet and Government of Russia.

A Russian Federation state nationalities policy constructed on these principles would go beyond the framework of national borders. Such a nationalities policy would unite peoples rather than divide them.

Stankevich Discusses Work as Presidential Adviser

PM0801095593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 6 Jan 93 p 2

[Aleksey Luzin report on interview with Sergey Stankevich, adviser to the president on political questions; place and date not given: "High-Pressure Work. Sergey Stankevich Reflects Upon the Institution of Advisers to the Russian Federation President"—boldfaced passages are Luzin narrative]

[Text] [Stankevich] The institution of advisers to the president did not emerge by accident. It is not a concession to fashion, but a response to a serious requirement. The presidents of all countries in the world have their advisers.

The president and the government are expected to respond to the needs of the state, to make political decisions, and to monitor their consequences. In day-to-day activity, it is very important not to lose the strategic thread of reforms. There must be constant critical reflection. There must be somebody who is not directly connected with the government, in other words not involved with the day-to-day leadership of any particular sector but, while working in parallel with these processes, is able to analyze this leadership critically, to enlist the services of various analysis centers and independent experts, to give an objective evaluation of what is happening, and to propose various amendments.

The main task of the president's advisers is this—to distance themselves from routine matters which absorb the government, to look at events from the sidelines, and to notice any emerging processes, contradictions, and conflicts.

Furthermore, the president is physically unable to absorb the massive flow of information, drafts, proposals, enquiries, and requests. This is why, in certain spheres of his activity, he may assign the preliminary work on some questions to an adviser.

Advisers take part in the preparation and adoption of the most important state decisions which affect people's lives one way or another. This is important and responsible work. But it can hardly be described as rewarding. You hardly ever know what effect your advice will have. In the wake of major political events, you are frequently asked: "Well? Was it you who advised this or that scenario?...."

I am, however, inspired by the nature of this work as it affords an opportunity to monitor directly the development of the most important political events, to be privy to many historic changes, to display initiative, and to uphold one's own perception of the idea of Russia.

Few are the moments when you can claim a memorable victory ["Viktoriya"] for yourself. Nowadays, we are talking not so much of achievements and breakthroughs but of minimizing the losses as far as possible, halting the decline, and reversing the downward trend. Even slowing down the decline can hardly be considered a success. Therefore, there is little likelihood of any laurels even in the future: We are already used to intense and not necessarily rewarding work.

Sergey Stankevich, adviser to the president on political questions, is the youngest among his colleagues. He is just 38 years old. Intelligent in discourse and democratic with his subordinates, he is the embodiment of a new-style functionary called upon to impose a system on the chaotic processes of social life.

There are currently 10 advisers in the president's apparatus, each one a "pro" in his field. The main criterion for selecting the closest aides of the head of state is competence, as well as compatibility with the president.

Each adviser has his own small apparatus performing current work on the preparation of necessary materials. Every week, each adviser prepares a report for the president on the situation in the sphere of his responsibility.

When making a decision, the president has several options from which to choose. This, too, is reflected in the advisers' activity. Their views do not completely coincide. There are people with more radical views, and others with more moderate views. Stankevich can probably be classed among the latter.

When asked whether it is possible to feed and clothe a family on a monthly per capita income of 5,000 rubles, the adviser merely shrugged his shoulders. But if such a high-ranking functionary is paid so little, what can be said about all the other state officials? Is this not the source of the all too familiar problems which dog state service?

[Stankevich] A servant of the state, a functionary, a bureaucrat—basically they all mean the same thing. A person hired by society to manage state affairs. However,

with the passage of time, a certain aloofness has been attributed to the word "functionary," and negative connotations have been predominant in the word "bureaucrat."

Attitudes toward state service need to be radically reviewed. There are two factors which we will have to overcome. First—the reliance on a good chief. Instead of, say, solving his own problems or defending his rights in court, the Soviet citizen grew accustomed to wandering around government offices in the hope of meeting a kind-hearted chief in one of them. And this attitude created completely unacceptable interrelations between the citizen and the state. Furthermore, it also brought out in functionaries a particular style of conduct which presupposes total license and arrogance of the kind which says: I'll mete out a punishment if I feel like it, or I'll be kindhearted if I feel like it.

Second—the state service is in need of serious reform, legal protection, and stability. A new law on state service is about to emerge from the Supreme Soviet.

Those who work in state service must be skilled professionals who sense that they are defenders of state interests, and who will bear full responsibility for the results of exercising state power.

There is one very important point of principle. State servants need stability of office. Continuous reorganization puts tremendous pressure on those professionals who still remain in state service. Consequently, the apparatus' intellectual level may drop sharply. Stability and solid continuity are the most important qualities of a good state apparatus. The machinery of state must function under any conditions and through any disasters.

My first meeting with Sergey Stankevich took place on the eve of the Seventh Congress of Russian People's Deputies. Barely pausing for breath after returning from a scheduled meeting, he turned to me and said: "Let's go!"

We talked for just over an hour. I left at 2100 hours, but the working day of the president's adviser on political question was at its peak, it seemed.

Such is the work schedule of one of the highest-ranking state servants. He himself described it as follows: "Probably, like many state servants, I am now working under high pressure."

New Health Minister Nechayev Profiled

PM0701210593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 4

[Profile of new Health Minister Eduard Nechayev by Svetlana Tutorskaya: "Expecting Significant Initiatives From the New Health Minister"]

[Text] According to people who know him, the new Russian health minister, Eduard Nechayev, is on the dry side, but he knows his job and is certainly a decent man. As it happens, in my 20 years as medical correspondent for IZVESTIYA our paths have not crossed once, probably because he has worked in military medicine all that time.

The military's strength is its system of hierarchical authority. The leadership of the Military Medical Academy in St. Petersburg, where Nechayev worked for many years, reckoned it was premature to talk about his new appointment. Eduard Aleksandrovich himself, apparently, is none too keen on interviews: First let me actually do something, he said, and then we can talk.

Fine, OK, but people's interest in who is going to be at the Russian Health Ministry's helm at such a difficult time is not by any means idle.

Current Russian Academy of Medical Sciences Vice President Fedor Ivanovich Komarov, medical academician and one of the country's leading medical scientists, has known Eduard Nechayev for many years and was even to some extent his mentor, when they both worked as Soviet Army medical service organizers.

The 58-year-old professor, medical service Colonel General Eduard Nechayev was educated at the Saratov Medical Institute. In 1959 he started work as a resident physician in the surgical department of the military hospital in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. Five years later he joined a department of the Military Medical Academy as an academic assistant. His first scientific studies were on electrical stimulation of the heart and a doctorate on heart surgery. After advanced training at the P. Kupriyanov-A. Kolesov school of surgery, he became a more general surgeon.

In 1985 Nechayev became chief surgeon in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany. He would subsequently replace Fedor Ivanovich Komarov as chief of the Soviet Army Central Military Medical Directorate. He developed military field hospitals and helped victims in Ufa and Armenia; he organized a hospital and performed operations in Afghanistan before our forces were introduced. Now he has a new post, which, it is generally acknowledged, is so difficult that someone who was also slated for the post, when the question was put to him direct, responded angrily: "Do I look like a kamikaze?"

But the path of the organizer of military medicine is not strewn with roses either, apparently. Being responsible for everything that happens in the army and being at the defense minister's beck and call is not something for lovers of an easy life.

Some physicians tend to see the appointment of an old soldier as a sensible move. For instance, former minister Igor Denisov, who knows Nechayev, having worked with him following the earthquake in Armenia, is counting on his sense of discipline.

Incidentally, it is by no means the first occasion when a head of military medicine has gone to the Health Ministry. Z. Solovyev, who was appointed to the post in

1920, had started out organizing treatment for Red Army soldiers. After the Great Patriotic War military medical service chief Yefim Ivanovich Smirnov was generally acknowledged as having done a great deal of good in civilian life—as minister. And he was not afraid of having his own opinion.

But what happens to the new minister will depend, many believe, on the material and financial support.

As for the new minister's alleged prejudice vis-a-vis insurance-based medicine, the rumors are unconfirmed. In his first meeting with a Health Ministry colleague Nechayev described insurance-based medicine as a very important priority.

The new minister is expected to adopt a serious approach to disaster medicine. Igor Denisov says that he has already played a big part in organizing emergency medicine departments in leading medical higher education establishments. Well, there has been no decline in the number of disasters here. And if one is talking about the nation's state of health, we have another emergency situation, where the number of deaths now exceeds the number of births....

Article Examines Army Draft Shortfall, Resources

PM0801094193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Interview with Colonel General Vitaliy Bologov, deputy chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, by Viktor Litovkin; place and date not given: "The Draft Has Ended. The Dispatch of New Recruits to the Troops Continues"]

[Text] The Russian Defense Ministry has adopted a decision to extend the dispatch of last year's fall draftees to the troops until 20 January 1993.

"This is primarily connected with the fact that, because of difficult meteorological conditions in areas of Siberia and the Urals and shortages of aircraft fuel, Aeroflot has been unable to deliver draftees on time," Colonel General Vitaliy Bologov, chief of the General Staff Main Mobilization Organization Directorate and deputy chief of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, said in a conversation with your IZVESTIYA military observer.

We used military transport aircraft, the general said, but this also involved the same problems. Furthermore, we decided to give the boys the opportunity to greet the New Year with family and friends rather then on an airplane. Their service will not suffer from this.

There are also some other reasons. Because of financial difficulties, many organizations of the old DOSAAF [Voluntary Society for the Promotion of the Army, Aviation, and Navy], now the ROSTO [Russian Defense, Sports, and Technical Society], have delayed in releasing specialists for the armed forces, particularly drivers. The money is now there, and in the first few days of January graduates of ROSTO schools will swell the ranks of the Russian Army and Navy.

By 1 January 1993 a total of 84.9 percent of the planned number of draftees had been sent out into the Army and Navy. The specialist troops, that is, the Strategic Rocket Forces, the Airborne Troops, Air Defense, and the Navy, are the most fully staffed—by 95 percent, while the construction and railroad troops are significantly less well staffed. But, according to the deputy chief of the General Staff, the draft is only providing for 22 percent of the troops' requirements. This means that in certain garrisons officers will continue to perform guard duty in place of enlisted men, they will unload freightcars, and even work as stokers in boiler rooms.

One of the basic reasons for the underfulfillment of the draft plans is that students from institutes of higher education and technical schools, and workers and employees who are citizens of former Soviet republics which are now neighboring states, are still on the military personnel records of military commissariats but, under the new law on military service obligation, they cannot be drafted for service in the Russian Army. There are around 8,000 of them. Students from commercial, non-state institutes of higher education who have paid 20,000-40,000 rubles for their studies are not subject to the draft either. There are already 48 institutes like this in Russia, and they account for 4,500 young men of draft age.

Furthermore, the draft campaign in the North Caucasus and areas consumed by the flames of interethnic conflict has practically failed. Chechnya, Ingushetia, and Ossetia still owe the Army another 9,000 men. There is also a big problem with the health of the rising generation. It is worrying that 3 percent of draftees are being removed from the military personnel records as being generally unfit for military service, and 5.5 percent need serious treatment. This is not the Army's problem but a problem for society and its labor and intellectual resources—which are not so rich, the general noted.

Another 2 percent of 17 year olds are in prisons and camps or have previous convictions—they are not taken into the Army either. And of course, the problem of draft dodgers has not been resolved. The mechanism of legal responsibility for the violation of the Law on Military Service Obligation is not working. According to General Staff specialists' estimates, over 17,800 men have avoided the draft, but they believe that the real number of such young men is far greater.

The point is, Col. Gen. Vitaliy Bologov says, that it is not ministers of defense and military commissars who draft people for service in the Army and Navy—they only organize this work. The decision to defer the draft is adopted by a nondepartmental draft commission. It has no higher organ above it and its decisions are not controlled by the military department. The lawfulness of particular deferments is very hard to verify in practical terms. So what has happened is that of 100 young men of

draft age only 28-35 are going through the orientation process, and in Moscow the number is only 7-10.

But the forecasts for draft resources in the long term are even more alarming, the experts claim. It will be particularly difficult for the Army in fall of 1993, when enlisted men and NCO's who have served two years and those who have served 18 months are transferred to the reserve. The shortage of personnel, the General Staff says, imposes a directly proportional burden on the shoulders of those who remain in service, both officers and men. And this could lead to a self-reduction of the armed forces to a level that is lower than planned, and a sharp reduction in combat readiness.

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Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Delegation Meets Egyptian Counterparts

LD0701175893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1636 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By Itar-Tass correspondent Georgiy Shelenkov]

[Text] Cairo, 7 Jan—A delegation of the Russian Supreme Soviet led by Ruslan Khasbulatov is currently on a visit here. It met today with Ahmad Fathi Surur, chairman of the People's Assembly of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

During the conversation the Russian parliament speaker noted that the Near East problem should be tackled, taking into consideration the interests of all the parties involved. I have the impression, he continued, that recently Tel Aviv has demonstrated understanding of the fact that the rigid, unequivocal position it has maintained in the past has come to an impasse. The talks the Russian parliamentary delegation held in Israel make it possible to conclude that Israel is amenable to a constructive position in the matter of achieving a Near East settlement. Nevertheless, as the story of more than 400 Palestinians deported by the Israeli authorities demonstrates, there is still a long way to go before the Arab-Israeli conflict is resolved comprehensively.

R. Khasbulatov said the Russian side shares the concern of Egyptian parliamentarians about Israel's failure to join the international convention on chemical weapons and the treaty on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Speaking on bilateral relations, the chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet expressed his regret that they had slackened over the last few years. This state of affairs should undoubtedly be put right, especially taking into consideration the important role played by Egypt in the Near East. Russian-Egyptian relations should not only be brought back to the level of 15 years ago, but also be developed.

The speaker of the Egyptian parliament praised the Russian-American treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons (START II), signed in Moscow, and called on Russia to make its foreign policy more active, particularly in the Near East region. In the opinion of the Egyptian side, further development of relations between Egypt and Russia, which F. Surur called historic, could play a significant role in this process.

While discussing the situation in the Persian Gulf, in the light of Tehran's attempts to pursue a hegemonistic policy in the region, the Egyptian side raised the issue of Russia supplying certain types of weapons to Iran. The speaker of the Egyptian parliament noted in the same context that the aggravation of the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina provides Iran with an additional pretext for creating the so-called Islamic front, claiming that the rights of Muslims are being violated and this results in the growth of extremism throughout the world.

At the meeting of the delegation with M.K. Hilmi, chairman of the Egyptian Consultative Council, which also took place today, the Russian parliamentarians familiarized themselves with the structure and functions of this state power body in Egypt. In the course of their conversation, M.K. Hilmi said that he appreciated the assistance rendered to Egypt by our country in the past, and expressed the hope that relations between the two peoples would "remain cordial" in the future.

The visit of the Russian parliamentary delegation to Egypt is continuing.

Regional Affairs

Tatarstan President To Attend Clinton Inauguration

OW0701141793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1313 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev has been invited to attend the inauguration of Bill Clinton. An INTERFAX correspondent was informed in Kazakh [as received] that such an agreement had been reached between Clinton and Tatarstan's Vice-Premier Ravil Muratov even before the presidential election in the US.

Stavropolye, Chechnya Hold Talks To Stabilize Caucasus

LD0701174093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Stavropolye and Chechnya are sitting down at the conference table. Our correspondent Valeriy Kuts reports.

[Kuts] On 6 January, in the ancient Cossack village of Kurskoy, which is situated on the border of Stavropolye and Chechnya, an event occurred which could become a turning point in the political life not only of the northern Caucasus but of the whole of southern Russia. For the first time in the existence of the Chechen Republic, leaders of the Stavropol kray administration, the ataman of the Kray Union of Cossacks, and a representative of the Orthodox Concession, with the sanction of the Russian Government, sat down at the conference table with a plenipotentiary delegation of Chechnya, headed by Agriculture Minister Uruzbek Besultanov. Among the problems under discussion is the acute problem of the supply of energy carriers to Stavropolye, especially for the Budennovsk plastics and polymers works, one of the largest in Europe, and also aviation kerosene for agricultural aircraft and Mineralnyye Vody Airport.

Representatives of the law enforcement bodies decided to set up a special committee to coordinate efforts to restore law and order in the border zone, and to put an end to attacks of piracy, cattle rustling, and the plundering of agricultural equipment from the Chechnya side. Stavropolye, for its part, has pledged to adhere strictly to the timescale and supplies of flour, grain, electricity, and natural gas.

But the main outcome of the first official Stavropolye-Chechnya meeting was an accord reached on permanent and constructive political-economic talks aimed at stabilizing the explosive situation in the northern Caucasus. Such news, you have to agree, would be a Christmas present for all of us.

Voronezh Oblast To Accept Troops Along Ukraine Border

LD0701174493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Correspondent A. Koltakov report from Voronezh; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] On Christmas Eve, Voronezh Oblast received the status of border zone with Ukraine. It was this factor that determined that Voronezh Oblast would be a bridgehead for deploying some units of the Western Group of Forces.

A few days ago, Ivan Shabanov, chairman of the oblast soviet, and Yuriy Savenkov, deputy head of the oblast's administration, visited Germany to resolve a number of issues linked with the forthcoming transfer of troops to Voronezh oblast. In this connection a number of problems have arisen regarding the accommodation of officers, and finding work for their families. The leadership of the oblast is placing great hopes in the forthcoming meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk, which is to take place on 19 January, and may resolve the issue of whether Ukraine's borders with Russia will be transparent or whether barbed wire will stretch along their length.

International Affairs

Kuchma on Links With Russia, Other Topics

PM0801095593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 Jan 93 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma in Kiev by special correspondents D. Tabachnik and F. Sizyy; date not given: "Leonid Kuchma: It Is Easier To Launch Rockets Than To Organize a Normal Life. Ukrainian Prime Minister Answers Our Correspondents' Questions"]

[Text] [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Leonid Danilovich, some pessimists have called the present Ukrainian Government the last government of proclaimed sovereignty; indeed, recently you yourself in your famously unsparing report to the Supreme Soviet compared the present time with the postwar years of dislocation. How has the year of Ukrainian economic independence ended for you?

[Kuchma] Strange as it may seem, the upshot has been awareness of our economic dependence.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] On whom?

[Kuchma] A difficult question. In my speech to deputies I indeed said that Ukraine had lived through a war, a war in the economy, and what is more, lost it. Politicians fought it, but it was the economy that suffered.

First and foremost, we are dependent on Russia. Of course, many tried their utmost to bring economic relations between the two states to the stage of "cold war." Now the light has dawned.

Yes, we are dependent on Russia, but in just the same way as Russia is dependent on the Ukrainian economy. Taking the road of self-isolation, we at first did not suspect that this was the road to nowhere. It is fraught with difficult consequences. Possibly top politicians have not yet appreciated this misfortune, but in factories, plants, and kolkhozes people have already encountered the consequences of their sinful deeds.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Experts have expressed the opinion that, if all economic ties between Ukraine and Russia were broken once and for all, the Ukrainian economy would be able to preserve only 15 percent of its present capacity, the Russian economy—taking account of its raw material possibilities—just over 60 percent...

[Kuchma] I do not know whether it is fortunate, or to our misfortune, but we have not made such calculations [proschety]. However, I do not think that this is such a striking difference. True, I am perfectly aware that 70-80 percent of Ukrainian industry works for Russia. This year, in view of the slump in production, still less was received. And I am perfectly aware how badly Russia needs the output of Ukraine's machine building industry and its entire national economic complex.

Of course, it is necessary to sit down and calculate. I think that then there will be fewer of the corresponding slogans at rallies.

Nobody needs us except each other, neither us, nor Russia, with its oil, gas, and timber. After all, it is the nature of everything to come to an end one day. Machine building constitutes, hypothetically speaking, 0.3 percent of our total exports. At most 2-3 percent. This indicates our level.

It should not be forgotten that Europe and the United States are also experiencing by no means easy times. They too have recorded a slump in production. They are already tired of carrying us on their backs. Therefore they are frankly appealing to us: Return to our former economic area. The Baltic and East Europe too—that is your market. After all, the West has not greeted East Europe with open arms either, has it?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] It sometimes appears that many industrialists are afraid to take steps toward Russia, being fearful of the political consequences...

[Kuchma] I tell you absolutely honestly and frankly: I am totally unafraid of reactions to the cabinet's actions. I act not in the interests of this building or my own advantage, but only for the good of the people.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But it is impossible to arrange economic relations if there is no political stability. But the impression arises that Ukraine and Russia more often communicate by means of "protest notes" on the slightest grounds. And there are no practical steps to meet one another halfway. Do the premiers of the two sides communicate by telephone at least?

[Kuchma] I entirely agree with you that, from the outside, it looks roughly that way, although I have the opportunity to communicate with Russian leaders—especially by telephone. Today I have talked with Chernomyrdin twice.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The new Russian prime minister has paid his first visit to Kazakhstan. And you have been to Russia in your time. In late December a planned summit of the Russian and Ukrainian leaders unexpectedly failed to take place. One vice premier said that this was very distressing. Does it not seem to you that Russia is changing its priorities?

[Kuchma] I would not like to think so. A very large harvest has been gathered in Kazakhstan, and Russia, like Ukraine, incidentally, has a shortage of grain. Moreover, the United States has refused both Russia and Ukraine credits for grain. We have to rely on ourselves alone. And Chernomyrdin, as a man with his feet on the ground, not with his head in the clouds, understands that today everyone wants to eat. If the people are not fed, the government will lose its head. And probably Chernomyrdin decided that while there is grain in Kazakhstan, he should go there. Decisions have to be made...

But I was indeed very upset when the meeting failed to take place.

Chernomyrdin phoned me and said that the Russian president is very tired. Not surprising—after that marathon congress...

The future year is very worrying. We have a bundle of unsolved problems. The most important is the question of energy sources. There is no clarity on mutual deliveries. Enterprises have not concluded contracts. There is utter chaos. The problem of mutual payments has still not been settled. The Central Bank of Russia has given an explanation, but to be honest, it does not satisfy us. There should be perfect accord between the two national banks—and the leaders of the two states.

It is possible to live by mutual insults, but constant bickering leads to nothing useful. In the final analysis, it was we who were thrown out of the ruble zone 1 July. All the same, it is necessary to seek mutual understanding.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But meanwhile customs posts are being erected. And allegedly the Ukrainian Government has decided on tough customs regulations on the border with Russia...

[Kuchma] I will show you documents indicating that this decision stems from the Russian Government. Russia was the first to begin erecting customs posts and instituting various restrictions on exports. I see nothing terrible in this. Civilized customs posts are needed to regulate the balance of trade and payments and the movement of goods... Without this there will be no normal trade. But you see, these customs posts are turning into places of arbitrary rule. The levies are terrifying. Someone is enriching himself. I spoke with Viktor Stepanovich [Chernomyrdin] on this subject today. I said that policy at the customs posts is being determined by the sergeant, and he corrected me: You are wrong—by the lance corporal. We agreed that within the first 10 days of January everyone should meet and resolve these problems that are global in terms of our relations. There are many other urgent questions. Millions of Russians are living in Ukraine, and millions of Ukrainians in Russia. It is essential to prepare a package of documents on their social and legal defense. Pensions, reserving housing, citizenship...

I think that the outlines of this mutual understanding are already emerging.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Nevertheless, Russian enterprises are closing their branches in Ukraine. This is a very dangerous sign...

[Kuchma] I hope that this is happening through inertia. They were going full steam ahead in a certain direction, and now it is hard to stop.

It is no secret that everyone was trying to build a closed economy. Russia first and foremost. Here is a specific example, the output of "Yuzhmash." Acknowledged by all as the best in the world. Put together by all as well, incidentally. Glushkovo engines. And the control systems developed by Lapygin. I will not boast too much. But there was production sharing. Mutual connections! Everything began with the declarations of sovereignty. Why get things from Ukraine, people said, let us make them ourselves. What euphoria there was in the initial stage! Freedom! And the unfailing desire to crush one another. And steal a march on one another. But of course, huge capital investments were required for this.

Incidentally, the latest, this time joint launch of a vehicle has been successfully completed from Baynokur. They called me. And offered their congratulations.

Or, take another example. I used to work at "Yuzhmash." A large delegation from Russia came to visit us. They had decided to make their own wheeled tractor. I asked that they be shown everything. We produced 60,000 tractors, and sold 40,000 to Russia. And today, we only just manage to produce 30,000. Why? We receive 70 percent of the components from Russia. To be more exact, nowadays we receive virtually none. So let us first regain our proper weight divisions, to make this production sharing work.

To be honest, sometimes I give up trying to understand the situation. We have been ruined by our own mistakes. Let us work together. In the final analysis, the ruble too should enter the Ukrainian market.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Ukraine's problems with energy sources are widely known. It appears that everything will soon grind to a halt once and for all here. At the same time, in Tyumen Oblast there is a disastrous shortage of manpower to halt the slump in oil production. Anyone who feels like it is actively moving in here, but not Ukraine. But there are already almost 600,000 Ukrainians working in Western Siberia.

[Kuchma] I have signed official documents and sent them to the Russian Government on this subject. We have specific proposals. I am not an advocate of saying: Gimme! If there are 30,000 nonworking wells in Western Siberia, we are ready to join actively in dealing with this problem. We are fully capable of participating in the development of new deposits. This approach could be mutually advantageous.

Of course, we do not understand why oil is sold to Ukraine at double the price it is sold to Belarus. On account of what sins?

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Have you tried raising this question directly?

[Kuchma] We were going to have a meeting.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Recently you spoke extremely skeptically of the fate of the CIS. What does not satisfy you: the Commonwealth's results or the actual idea of creating the CIS?

[Kuchma] Above all, any person, especially a leader, looks toward results. What will I get out of this, to put it

crudely? Unfortunately, not one of the documents adopted within the CIS framework is working.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Experts claim that Ukraine will leave the CIS in the near future. And Nazarbayev stated that it was on Ukraine's initiative originally that the Union was destroyed, and now everyone fears that Ukraine will slam the door again. This time leaving the CIS...

[Kuchma] I do not think so. I like Nazarbayev. He has always stated his position directly. He has never dodged or prevaricated. He said before that the USSR should be preserved. But it cannot be said that Ukraine was the initiator of the collapse of the Union.

Of course, these are questions for the president. Leonid Makarovich [Kravchuk] is a balanced man. And I do not think that he will raise the question of leaving the CIS tomorrow.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Who of today's politicians do you find the most likable?

[Kuchma] To be frank, it is very difficult for me to name such a personality.... But I dream of meeting an independent politician.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] But is anyone an authority for you?

[Kuchma] Since I worked for many years in a design bureau, working on strategic missiles, for me, perhaps, Yangel [Soviet space rocket designer] will remain for me all my life an unreachable peak. In those years, wherever I was, it was sufficient for me to say: Yangel sent me. This man's name opened doors everywhere. He was a giant. In terms of both ideas and humanity.

But now... (he shrugs)

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] In Russia there was the Gaydar team, a government of like-minded people. Does Kuchma have such a team?

[Kuchma] I cannot say yes. I would like to, but I cannot. In order to be in the same team you have to know one another not just by surname. I understand that that time will modify the [cabinet's] membership.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Where does Ukraine's way out of the crisis lie?

[Kuchma] In reforms. And only in reforms. But it is one thing when reforms are proclaimed for the sake of effect, when they become a populist slogan but specific deeds are remain lacking. And quite another to make cardinal changes in the life of society. Yes, we have become impoverished. We are sustaining losses. But it seems to me the most important thing has already been achieved—the incentive for people to work has emerged.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The form of address of "ladies and gentlemen ["panove"] is now in use in the Ukrainian parliament. Is Ukraine embracing capitalism?

[Kuchma] We still have not determined for ourselves what we are building. Personally, I understand that many would like the sort of socialism they have in Sweden. And I indeed prefer Europe to the United States. In the United States the stratification of society is significantly more appreciable. And there is a huge number of poor people.

We still have to decide. But the most important thing today is not to be hypocritical.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] After the government's decisions to liberalize prices, there could prove to be all too many poor people in Ukraine also...

[Kuchma] Price hikes in the present situation are a natural and logical process. It is now going on without us, the government. In Kiev meat cost far in excess of 1,000 [currency not specified] on the market, and milk products had disappeared from the stores. We simply held back for a while, understanding that these unpopular steps would not add to the government's prestige. Only diminish it. But we find ourselves in an impossible position, because the price of oil has grown 300 times over, that of coal 100 times over, and that of metallurgical products 50 times over, whereas prices of agricultural products have increased only tenfold. And this discrepancy was bleeding our financial system dry.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] You are certainly an optimist. Nevertheless, you made up your mind to head the Cabinet of Ministers at such a period... But won't the Chinese black cockerel get its wings burned [1993 is year of the cockerel in the Chinese calendar]? Are there any good prospects?

[Kuchma] I could be misunderstood, but I see the future for the Ukraine, indeed for Russia too, as primarily dependent on the level of our relations. On their character. If our politicians understand this, if they proceed on this basis, the reforms will eventually end in success. I have already said many times that it would be a most serious crime to cause a quarrel between our two peoples. In this crazy world it is difficult to think of anything more terrifying. But in our current policy we are to some degree pushing toward this. Therefore we have to stop and think.

I had a 90-minute conversation with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. An exceptionally frank exchange resulted. I continue to trust him even now. You see, he said such sound and sensible things. But why does everything continue to go awry in the same old way? Surely the lance corporals are not deciding for us again?

To be honest, I do not understand this.

It remains only to appeal to the Lord God Almighty. Because no one else can be relied on any more.

Economic Exchange Problems With Russia Viewed

WS0601133993 Kiev IMENEM ZAKONU in Ukrainian 4 Dec 92 p 2

[Article by M. Heletko from the "Echoes of the Week" column: "An Editorial Correction"]

[Text] As it is known, a monetary reform has been introduced through an edict issued by the President of Ukraine L. Kravchuk. As the result, the Ukrainian coupon-karbovanets has acquired all the attributes of a currency. On 17 November, a delegation left for Moscow to clear up all questions concerning the abandoning of the ruble by Ukraine, and to sign a number of documents on the division of the assets and debits among the successors of the former USSR. V. Hetman, the head of the Managing Board of the National Bank of Ukraine, signed, among other documents, the protocol to the agreement between the national banks of the two states. This document contained one editorial correction that was not previously cleared with the State Commission. The correction envisaged freezing the assets of the National Bank of Ukraine in the National Bank of Russia until 1 March 1993.

What would have this led to? Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister V. Pynzenyk, Deputy Minister of Finance M. Syvluskyy, and B. Markov, deputy head of the Managing Board of the National Bank of Ukraine, explained during a news conference with Ukrainian and foreign reporters that this move would have had grave consequences for Ukraine.

Ukrainian enterprises currently owe 530 billion karbovanets [K] to Russian enterprises. The debt of Russian enterprises to Ukrainian enterprises does not exceed the sum of K93 billion. The overwhelming majority of payments issued by Ukrainian consumers for Russian products and raw materials is "frozen" in the Central Bank of Russia. Likewise, payments sent from Ukraine have not been transferred to the accounts of Russian enterprises, and they have stopped shipping raw materials, component parts, and other goods. In other words, the Ukrainian economy has worked for Russia "free of charge" during a significant portion of 1992. According to the protocol signed by V. Hetman, this state of relations between the National Bank of Russia and the National Bank of Ukraine was to remain until 1 March 1993. Even if the Ukrainian-Russian relations could change for the better after this date, billions would have been "swallowed up" by inflation. It is clear to see that this would have been a blow difficult for us to recover from. The introduction of the Ukrainian karbovanets as the national currency would make no sense. It would have been blocked by other former USSR subjects, as it was blocked by Russia.

The fatal mistake had to be corrected immediately. We should say that the Ukrainian delegation, headed by Vice Prime Minister V. Pynzenyk, managed to do so. The aforementioned article was annulled. Moreover, a number of important agreements was reached, allowing for the payments of the National Bank of Ukraine in the National Bank of Russia to be released, among them, "frozen payments" amounting to 230 billion rubles [R] that will be returned to Ukraine.

The mass media have recently reported on Ukraine's refusal to share in the assets of the former USSR in exchange for Russia's repayment of Ukrainian debt to the foreign banks. V. Pynzenyk emphasized that these reports are not true. The Ukrainian delegation signed an agreement in Moscow calling for a temporary transfer of the management of Ukrainian foreign exchange currency assets and debts to Russia. This by no means signifies our government's refusal to share in the assets of the former USSR, or failure to repay the corresponding portion of the debt. However, the agreement allows Ukraine to back out if it contradicts its national interests.

At the news conference, many questions were asked about Ukraine's giving a substantial part of its resources to Russia which has resulted in mass bankruptcy of enterprises and organizations. It was revealed that the Ukrainian Government often warned the enterprise managers about the dangers of shipping products before receiving advance payment from the Russian buyers. By the way, in other CIS countries the governments and the national banks kept an eye on the balance of payments between Russian consumers and the local suppliers. This did not take place in our country. Moreover, we closed our eyes on the difference in the exchange rate between our currencies. We stubbornly maintained the rate of 1 ruble to 1 Ukrainian karbovanets despite the fact that the purchasing power of the latter was lower. This discrepancy was one of the reasons for the blocking of our National Bank accounts in the Russian Bank.

Reporters wanted to know if there existed a mechanism for the repayment of Russia's debt to the Ukrainian enterprise. Unfortunately, there is no such mechanism. According to the law, the government is not responsible for the individual economic enterprises. This is a matter for the Arbitration (Economic) Court. The Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, however, has not ratified the agreement with Russia on the regulation of property disputes and there is no one to turn to. There is only one advice: next time the enterprises should know better who to deal with....

Mistakes have been made again. It looks like we are getting used to it. It is said: Live and learn, but smart people learn by observing the mistakes of others.

Documents To Be Signed During Kravchuk Visit to Israel

LD0801112193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1009 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro]

[Text] Tel Aviv January 8 TASS—A number of important documents will be signed during Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk's official visit to Israel on January 11-13, Ukrainian Ambassador to Israel Yuriy Shcherbak said at a press conference here on Thursday [7 January]. According to the ambassador, the main document will be a memorandum on interaction and cooperation between the two countries. The sides will also sign a protocol on consultations between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and interstate agreements on cooperation in the field of education, science, culture and air communication.

We have included Israel, Yuriy Shcherbak said, into the so-called priority group of countries. It means that the present leadership of Ukraine is paying the most serious attention to the establishment of good political, economic and cultural ties with Israel, he stressed.

Sri Lankans Detained at Border, Sent to Moscow

OW0701142593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1313 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Citizens of Southeast Asia continue to illegally arrive in Ukraine from Russia. On Thursday [7 January], the Ukrainian frontier guards' press service announced that yesterday 20 Sri Lankans were detained, as they were crossing the Ukrainian border to enter Slovakia. They had no permits to cross the Ukrainian border.

All of the detainees were sent to Moscow, because there is no law allowing the Ukrainian authorities to start legal actions against foreign citizens committing such offences.

National Affairs

Defense Minister Reinstates Dismissed Naval Officers

LD0701172593 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0600 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] By order of Kostyantyn Morozov, minister of defense of Ukraine, officers of the Black Sea Fleet who were dismissed for swearing allegiance to the Ukrainian people, have been reinstated in active military service. Discriminatory measures were used against them by the Black Sea Fleet Command. Now Captain First Rank Yevhen Lupanov, Captain Second Rank Mykola Tysonov, Captain Third Rank Valeriy Kravchenko, Lieutenant Serhiy Hrynchuk, and other officers are continuing their service in the Naval Forces of Ukraine.

Communist Leader on Prospects for New Party

PM0801092193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jan 93 pp 1-2

[Report on interview with Stanislav Gurenko, first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, by Viktor Drozd; place and date not given: "Stanislav Gurenko: 'I Am Sure Communists Will Unite'"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Communist Party has been banned for about 18 months now. The dramatic fate of millions of Communists, the open and poorly concealed persecution they are suffering for their convictions, and the accusations and slander they are enduring are the reason many have quit the party.

Time was needed for thousands and thousands of Communists to understand who was served by these outrages on the party and the breakup of the USSR, and why. Crimean Communists have rallied together. An oblast conference of Donetsk Oblast Communists has been held. Communists from all regions of Ukraine are preparing for the reconstruction of their party and the holding of an all-Ukrainian conference. Stanislav Gurenko, first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee, reflects on the situation that has developed within the banned Communist Party in Ukraine in an interview with your PRAVDA correspondent.

[Drozd] Stanislav Ivanovich, what is your assessment of the present situation in Ukraine and the Republic's Communist Party?

[Gurenko] Right now it is not necessary to waste words on proving the obvious. Politicians have once again exploited the will of the people for their own ambitious purposes. Those nurtured by the party are showing particular zeal in this regard. How this could happen is a discussion that lies ahead of us. Right now I would like to stress the identical nature of the "national democrats by conviction" and the turncoats who are playing up to them: They are all openly switching to national-fascist positions and fooling people with the devices they typically use—the lowest sort of social demagoguery spiced with lies, calls for "sacrifices in the name of independence," and shameless suppression of any dissent. Those who do not agree with this policy are denied access to the mass media. The tragic position in which large numbers of Communists find themselves is aggravated by the fact that during all this time they have basically been denied the constitutional opportunity to sweep aside this obvious slander, give an account of their position, and stand up for themselves and their comrades. Thank you to PRAVDA for the opportunity to express our viewpoint.

[Drozd] But, you know, politicians at all levels are saying over and over again that a rule-of-law democratic state is being built in Ukraine....

[Gurenko] Democracy presupposes the power of the people. The politicians, however, are exploiting the people's expression of will in order to break up the USSR. Although the people have not given them this right. At the moment, in order to consolidate their personal power, they are attempting to "force through" an essentially antipeople Constitution and are taking things to the point where the soviets are being transformed from democratic organs into and obedient errand boy. And what rule-of-law state can we possibly be talking about if its largest political organization has been banned, if millions of Communists have been slandered over this period, and if officials allow themselves to accuse Communists of all manner of mortal sins (with impunity, moreover)? The aim is clear: To crush the influence that Communists exert on the life of society and to "prime" public opinion. Pay attention to this, moreover: The greater the errors made by the powers that be in the economy and domestic and foreign policy, the more people will eke out a poverty-stricken existence, and the louder and more brazen the anticommunist hysteria will become. Thank God, so to speak, that this hysteria has least affected the labor collectives, where people recognize each other's worth regardless of party affiliation.

[Drozd] But the authorities are giving the impression that nothing that is happening is inconsistent with democracy and a rule-of-law state, that everything you say amounts to "fabrications" by supporters of the USSR yearning for the former times of the party apparatchiks, and that they are making a mountain out of a molehill because they are afraid....

[Gurenko] This device is not new, it is also designed to kill several birds with one stone. By talking about the "evil empire," politicians would like to evade responsibility for their participation in the breakup of the USSR. They have now put forward an argument for "the transformation of the socioeconomic structure." Who authorized them to make this "transformation," or, to put it another way, this change in the social structure, this drawing of the country into the capitalist yoke? The authorities, however, would like to use this in order to conceal their drift toward extreme right-wing positions. It is alarming that under the slogans of departyization, a consolidated, purposeful, and unconditional repoliticization is taking place, geared to the ideas of nationalism, the Army, and the law enforcement organs.... Communists have sensed the danger that is threatening independent Ukraine—the gradual consolidation of a nationalist dictatorship. They are doing what they can to oppose this calamity. Their opportunities for doing so, of course, are too uneven: Whereas the "critics" and "gravediggers" of the Communist Party get the "green light" in the mass media, let me remind you that the Communists remain in an information blockade. People are beginning to see the light, however. It was no accident that in the additional elections to the Supreme Soviet the electorate voted for those who have proved their devotion to the fundamental interests of the Ukrainian people through their actions, people to whom they can entrust their future without being overly cautious. These elections showed that people have figured out the national democrats. In response yet another murky, dirty wave of anticommunism is being whipped up. But this time it could engulf the national democrats themselves. In any case, it will not knock the Communists off course.

[Drozd] Can reliable guarantees be formulated? After all, the party is made up of living people with a full range of human emotion and experience.

[Gurenko] Again, this is for a congress to decide. But guarantees do exist. Much depends, for example, on how party dues are allocated. Communists should realize that the material support of the party and the sacrifices that have to be made (yes, sacrifices too!) should not mainly be channeled into the maintenance of a heavily staffed apparatus but into financing party activity with a view to achieving its stated aims. First and foremost these include holding elections and referenda and supporting the party press and needy Communists.

[Drozd] Politicians and the obsequious journalists who serve them are calling down every kind of retribution on the Communists on the grounds that the Communists, they say, are opposed to Ukrainian independence and favor the restoration of the USSR.

[Gurenko] This campaign is being fanned with the aim of setting millions of their fellow countrymen against the Communists. Yes, Communists were and still are among those who condemned the breakup of the USSR and the severance of economic ties. I am impressed by the position taken by Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev: We should preserve, develop, and strengthen the all-around economic ties that exist among republics, and keep and multiply all the best things from our common history. This is in no way inconsistent with respect for sovereignty and the Constitutions and laws existing in the sovereign republics. As far as I know, this was and remains the position of many Communists. Not just in Ukraine. But Communists have always opposed and still do oppose the predatory plunder of Ukraine's natural, material, and spiritual wealth just to please foreign capital and the national bourgeoisie, just as they oppose Ukraine's becoming an instrument in a game of ambition and pride. So the national democrats are trying in vain to ascribe their own party plans to the Communists. We are internationalists. But we are primarily in favor of Ukrainian unity and the prosperity of the Ukrainian people.

[Drozd] You have already mentioned the perniciousness of dividing the party up into chiefs and subordinates and the replacement of discipline by obedience. How in this instance do you imagine that party comradeship will be embodied?

[Gurenko] If we are talking about party comradeship, we should probably start with the fact that the Communists' desire to reunite does not at all mean they agree with the ban on the Ukrainian Communist Party. These two

things should not be confused. Just as under no circumstances should we wait for the ban to be repealed, and only then unite. What the future party will be like is for Communists themselves to decide. It seems to me it would be useful to learn a lesson from the past and make provision in the party rules and other documents for norms that would exclude the possibility of turning the party into an organization of chiefs and subordinates at some stage in the future.

It would also be useful to recall Lenin's remarks on the fact that the party is responsible for every Communist and every Communist is responsible for the party. But this principle will only be vital when a mechanism operates inside the party that guarantees all party members terms for implementing their rights and duties.

[Drozd] Right now there are plenty of parties whose titles contain the words "communist" and "socialist" or else swear allegiance to these ideas. So how are people to figure out who is who?

[Gurenko] During this complex period which Ukraine is living through (as well as the other republics of the former USSR), people's political education is taking place very rapidly. They are already establishing without too much difficulty which politicians are worth something. And which politicians have decided to exploit people's adherence to socialist choice and communist ideals.

They explain separateness and a striving for "their own" parties in different ways. Some want to dissociate themselves from the CPSU and the Ukrainian Communist Party. Some are insisting that only they know the path to "pure" socialism. But all these justifications are no more than verbal exercises. If Communists and their leaders really want to keep Ukraine intact, guarantee it peace, and its people prosperity, they will always find a common language and reach agreement on unity of action. Most of all it is dangerous at the present time to swallow the bait of latter-day Father Gapons [reference to Russian priest who at the start of this century reputedly worked for czarist secret police to dilute the revolutionary struggle of the workers by initiating the creation of progovernment workers organizations]. But I believe in political instinct, the life experience, and the correctness of the choice made by those who are establishing the Ukrainian Communist Party. I believe that Communists and their leaders will achieve maturity, self-control, and courage. Maturity in their awareness of political choice, and courage in overcoming obstacles and building a truly new party.

National Space Agency Drafts Program

LD0801013393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The National Space Agency of Ukraine sees the preservation and further development of the space industry in the Republic as the main aim of its activities this year. Almost a year has passed since its creation under the cabinet of ministers.

For the new year the agency has come up with a draft industrial program drawn up in conjunction with the Commission for Space Research and the Southern [Pivdenne] Design Office. This program determines the priority trends in near space research in the fields of science, applied science, and defense. Interstate and international cooperation has also been envisaged, and the persons responsible for individual projects have been determined.

Belarus

Shushkevich Gives Briefing on PRC Visit, START, Economy

LD0701182293 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1815 GMT 5 Jan 93

[Text] Today, Stanislav Stanislavavich Shushkevich, chairman of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, held a meeting with correspondents of information publications. Mikhail Rutkowski, our parliamentary correspondent, also attended the meeting.

The first question which was put to the chairman of the Supreme Soviet was what he expects from his visit to the PRC, which will take place soon.

[Begin recording] [Shushkevich] It is true that our economic relations are developing well, and last year's visit by our prime minister helped with signing a number of documents. Our trade and economic relations continue to expand. We now have in view a different aspect: first, to make a contribution, to confirm the development of previous agreements, and second, to determine those political issues which will simplify relations, and will at long last help our development.

But there is another aspect—a political aspect. China is a great state, a permanent member of the Security Council, and we would like to confirm that our attitude is very good and we respect when such a great state [words indistinct].

[Unidentified correspondent] Stanislav Stanislavavich, commenting on the 3 January signing of the START-II Treaty by Yeltsin and Bush, many Western politicians voice concern over the fact that Ukraine and Belarus have not joined the START process.

[Shushkevich] Belarus greets all global agreements on the reduction of nuclear armaments, including the treaty of 3 January. Our position remains unchanged. We are going over to a nuclear-free status and neutrality. This has today again been confirmed by the Belarusian Supreme Soviet Presidium, where we discussed that issue within a whole range of aspects, and there is no deviation from this completely distinct political line. Belarus does not seek any profit from the presence of nuclear weapons on its territory, and confirms once more that it wants to be rid of its nuclear status. If the treaty which has been concluded helps to accelerate the withdrawal of nuclear strategic weapons from the Republic of Belarus we will greet it even more. We do not have the full text of that treaty, therefore I cannot comment further.

[Second unidentified correspondent] There is another question: your forecasts for this year. What life awaits us?

[Shushkevich] I hope the situation will improve, but I want to tell you that I am pleased—although I know that it is painful for many to (?accept it)—I am pleased with the results of the past year. In the conditions of such a drought, in the conditions of such a [word indistinct] instability, in the conditions of price instability, I think our government, (?or) the Supreme Soviet, have found a logical line. I would not want to lose this level of logic during the changing conditions. I have already told you about November. I hope there will be stabilization. But it is not enough. We must think about improvement, and the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the leadership of the Supreme Soviet agree with the government and will take a whole number of categorical measures. We want to start a resolute attack on corruption and crime. There is enough talk about organized crime. Look at unorganized, primitive crime. For some reason we have lost the initiative and methods of combating it, and we intend to demand categorically that the law enforcement bodies create proper condition of life for our population, and it will be done. [end recording]

Begins Official PRC Visit

LD0801094593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Beijing January 8 TASS—Chairman of the Belarussian Supreme Soviet Stanislav Shushkevich arrived in China on an official visit on Friday [8 January]. He will hold talks with Wan Li, chairman of the Permanent Committtee of the All-China Assembly of People's Representatives, Li Peng, premier of the State Counicl of China, as well as have a meeting with Jiang Zeming, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. The sides are to sign a join communique, as well as six agreements, including an agreement on the protection of investments.

The visit began with a trip to the special economic zone of Xiamen in the south of China where Stanislav Shushkevich intends to study the experience of Chinese reforms. "It is very interesting when a country of such gigantic scales has been on the rise for such a long time and has a considerable growth of the gross national product," Stanislav Shushkevich said.

KGB Chief Interviewed on Investigation of Corruption Cases

WS0701133193 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 20 Nov 92 pp 1, 3

[Interview with KGB Chief Eduard Ivanavich Shirkovskiy by ZVYAZDA correspondent A. Koktysh; place and date not given—under the "Only for ZVYAZDA newspaper" rubric: "KGB Office Is In Repair but Its Officers Have Revealed Some Big Corruption Cases"]

[Text] One senses the strong smell of new paint in the corridors of the KGB building. I was told that urgent major repairs were under way.

Political responses to the KGB chief's report at the Supreme Council session are still coming out. Eduard Ivanavich agreed to give an interview to our newspaper.

[Koktysh] The KGB has once more attacked corruption. What are the results of your raid?

[Shirkovskiy] I have met with the members of the Supreme Council Presidium, with V. Kebich, chief of the Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers; M. Kostsikav and M. Myasnikovich, first deputies of V. Kebich. The aim was to unite forces in the fight against official abuses and to stir the population to introduce public order. We cannot bear this state of things any longer. Delegations of workers, farmers, and intellectuals visit my study with facts of large-scale briberies and impunities of officials at all levels of power. We must outline our methods to combat this monster. The sooner we do so, the better the results will be.

[Koktysh] As far as I know, you have proposed to create independent public commissions. For some of us, they bring to mind powerful uncontrolled Emergency Commissions.

[Shirkovskiy] All our activities are directed to leave no trace of those hard times in the memory of our people. You must not even speak about their lack of control. To my mind, officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs will make up the core of these commissions. We will also help them. The main goal in creating these commissions is obvious because people in provinces see more than we do.

[Koktysh] Do you now find more possibilities to instill order in the Republic after the first reading of the Law on KGB?

[Shirkovskiy] In fact, the KGB had been operating illegally. Nobody took us seriously anywhere. For example, we halted a tank with unlicensed gasoline which was leaving Belarus. The owners of the tank asked our officers: "Who are you? You are neither militiamen nor prosecutor officials. You are operating illegally."

Currently, we can work more confidently. But what is new in our work is that we guard, first of all, the interests of the people and only then the interests of the state.

[Koktysh] In your report at the session you mentioned that some deputies who had to protect people's interests were involved in corruption cases themselves.

[Shirkovskiy] I want to stress once again that the KGB cannot punish or institute criminal proceedings against deputies. According to law, it is the business of the highest authorities. I have repeatedly passed the pertinent information to the Presidium of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet and to the Cabinet of Ministers. What were the deputies involved in? In smuggling and other legal "misunderstandings."

[Koktysh] The well-known Cabinet of Ministers' Decree No. 588 explicitly named some officials. As far as I know, most of them were only reprimanded. Eduard Ivanavich, are you not shocked by this fact?

[Shirkovskiy] I agree with you. Our struggle with corruption is superficial. But what can I do if we lack a law on corruption. We should have adopted it a year ago. We must fight with the network of criminals in "high places" and not with casual recidivists.

Immediately after the issue of the Cabinet of Ministers' Decree No. 588 on corruption, the government had to form commissions including law protection officials, deputies, different experts, and public representatives. Then, the dates of hearing of deputies' cases had to be fixed.

[Koktysh] What kind of commissions would you like to form?

[Shirkovskiy] First, a commission on export of strategic raw materials by some state officials, ministries, and cooperatives. Second, a commission on trade with foreign countries. It happens, that certain officials sign foreign trade contracts which are detrimental to the Republic.

[Koktysh] Eduard Ivanavich, the KGB would not be KGB if you had laid open all the information that you possessed. How much did you keep to yourself?

[Shirkovskiy] A lot of it. We are currently investigating about 200 cases of embezzlement and corruption on the territory of Belarus. I am not quite sure when these cases will be resolved.

[Koktysh] Uladzimir Yahorav, minister of internal affairs, told our newspaper in his interview that it was high time to wage a battle against corruption. In your opinion, when will this combat be embarked upon?

[Shirkovskiy] By the end of the current session. We expect either a response to our information or we will reveal all the names. You can be sure that we know a great deal.

[Koktysh] Do you believe that the first option will come about?

[Shirkovskiy] I had a phone call recently and someone told me: "You will lose. You started a combat with a dollar while it is unconquerable."

I believe that we have not exhausted all our options. I promise to keep you posted in all the details of this battle.

Decree on Report of KGB Chief at the Supreme Council

WS0701133593 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 1 Dec 92 p 2

[Supreme Council Decree "On the Report of the Chairman of the Committee for State Security of the Republic of Belarus" issued in Minsk on 3 November 1992]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Council **decrees:**

1. To consider the report of E.I. Shirkovskiy, chairman of the Committee for State Security of the Republic of

Belarus, on the activities of the Committee for State Security of the Republic of Belarus.

2. To charge the Committee for State Security, the Public Prosecutor Office, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Belarus with considering the recommendations and proposals elaborated by the people's deputies of the Republic of Belarus and with adopting appropriate decisions on them.

3. For the Supreme Council Commission of the Republic of Belarus for National Security, Defense, and Crime:

By 1 December 1992, to prepare and bring in the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus proposals on the creation of a deputy group which will exercise control over the activities of the Committee for State Security of the Republic of Belarus.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 12 November 1992

Decree on Draft Project of Military Defense Doctrine

WS0701133393 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 1 Dec 92 p 2

[Supreme Council Decree "On Draft Project of the Military (Defense) Doctrine of the Republic of Belarus" issued in Minsk on 3 November 1992]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Council **decrees:**

1. To approve the military (defense) doctrine (in the first reading) of the Republic of Belarus worked out by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus and supported by the National Security Council of the Republic of Belarus.

2. To charge the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus with:

—estimating the means for the building, maintenance, and development of the Armed Forces of the Republic within 10 percent of the total sum of the state budget; rejecting the former practice of using finances of other institutions; paying for the military orders for scientific and research works and material and technical supplies only from the budget quota allotted to the Defense Ministry by the state;

—developing the appropriate draft projects of state programs in the sphere of scientific and research work for the security of the Republic;

—developing the state programs for the social security of the servicemen and employment of discharged servicemen by the end of 1992;

—working on the project of the military (defense) doctrine of the Republic of Belarus, taking into consideration recommendations and proposals worded by the deputies, and bringing it to the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus in the second reading.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 3 November 1992

Decree on Military Service Outside Republic

WS0701133493 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 1 Dec 92 p 2

[Supreme Council Decree "On Military Service Outside of the Republic of Belarus by Officers-Citizens of Belarus" issued in Minsk on 3 November 1992]

[Text] The Belarusian Supreme Council **decrees:**

1. To consider that the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus has suggested measures to transfer the servicemen—citizens of the Republic of Belarus and the servicemen who maintain the rights to be granted Belarusian civic rights—from the Transcaucasian States, Middle Asia, and Baltic States to the Armed Forces, Border Troops, and Interior Troops of the Republic of Belarus.

2. To charge the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus with developing the program of return of the servicemen, citizens of the Republic of Belarus, from the states—CIS members—to the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus.

3. To enact this decree from the day of its adoption.

[Signed] S. Shushkevich, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus

[Dated] Minsk, 3 November 1992

Minsk Oblast Communists Hold Constituent Conference

WS0701133093 Minsk CHYRVONAYA ZMENA in Belarusian 23-29 Nov 92 p 2

[Article by correspondent F. Lyavitski under the "Stop-Fact" rubric: "The Communists Are Calling. Should We Go?"]

[Text] The constituent congress of the Minsk Oblast Communist Party of Belarus was held last week. Two reports—on the current political momentum and a new party program—were discussed. The reports stated that currently 21 rayon and two city party organizations of communists incorporating more than 2,000 organized supporters of communist ideas are operating (in general, they said that there were a lot of them, but at the time being, they are disorganized).

The conference participants called for the reestablishment of the great state and for the repeal of the decision to halt Belarusian Communist Party activities.

The conference adopted an appeal to the communists (calling for more decisive actions), and elected the oblast party committee and its political council headed by Vasil Novikav.

Political Leader on U.S. Note on Referendum Rejection

WS0701133293 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 28 Nov 92 p 1

[Article by Z. Paznyak, leader of the Belarusian Popular Front, under the "Deputies are Speaking" rubric]

[Text] What do I want to tell the citizens through your newspaper? On 25 November, at the Supreme Council session, Belarusian people's deputy U. Rusakevich made a speech and revealed the secret which was unknown to the press, but which was quite expected by the politicians. It comes out that on 5 November, U.S. Ambassador D. Swartz handed over a note from the U.S. Government in connection with the Supreme Council's illegal rejection of the referendum in Belarus. According to Rusakevich, the note says: "The Supreme Council's refusal to hold a republic-wide referendum demonstrates Belarus' setback on the road to building a democratic and law-abiding state. The United States expresses its regret concerning this Supreme Council decree. A competent legal commission confirmed its lawfulness, and verified the presence and validity of the signatures in support of the referendum. In accordance with the Law of the Republic of Belarus, the Supreme Council is required to set a date for this referendum if a certain number of signatures are collected in favor of a referendum. Instead, the Supreme Council has just refused to hold the referendum.

"In connection with the fact that the U.S. Government does not currently support any political parties or groups in Belarus, we must express our deep concern with the Supreme Council's decree which ignores the Republican Law and the free will of a considerable portion of the population."

Nevertheless, the deputy characterized this proper and politically correct note of the United States as "political mischief" and "legal interference in the internal affairs of an independent sovereign state." This description is inadequate and testifies to the fact that the conservative majority of the Supreme Council is not aware and does not want to be aware of elementary things, including the fact that the issues of human rights and democracy are not only the concern of the government, but also the concern of ordinary people, especially when you take into consideration that Belarus had signed all the international pacts and agreements on human rights and democratic guarantees. It seems to me that our conservative authorities are coming into the international political arena—in quite an "original" way.

Moldova

Snegur To Visit Paris at Mitterrand's Invitation

AU0701175893 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1508 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES, 7/1/1993—The president of the Republic of Moldova, Mircea Snegur, will pay an official visit to Paris on January 28 and 29, upon an invitation of the president of the French Republic, Francois Mitterrand.

The two presidents are expected to sign on that occasion the treaty of friendly understanding and cooperation between the two countries. President Snegur will also sign the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, other documents that are going to make up a legal framework for the relations between the Republic of Moldova and France, announced MOLDOVA PRES.

Nongovernmental Organizations Send Memorandum to CSCE, UN

AU0701180093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1457 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Chisinau, (ROMPRES), 7/1/1993—The MOLDOVA-PRES news agency newscast the text of a memorandum addressed to the United Nations and the CSCE on behalf of several non-governmental organizations in districts on the left bank of the Dniester of the Republic of Moldova, representing the interests of that part of the population, which pleads for the territorial integrity and the independence of Moldova.

Showing that in Transdniestria the anti constitutional bodies that snatched power continue the policy of terror and genocide against the autochthonous population even after the cessation of the armed conflict, the authors of the document underscore the tragic nature of the situation as well as the fact that without the false pretext of "defending the interests of the Russians in the area" and without the multilateral support of Russia the puppet regime in Tiraspol would have collapsed long before.

The memorandum also shows that Russia's disdainful attitude towards international commitments, including the generally acknowledged principle of non-interference in the affairs of other states and the Helsinki accord on the inviolability of frontiers, remained unchanged also after the signing by its president of the Moscow convention on the principles of peacefully settling the armed conflict in the Dniester area—Russia does not fulfill any of its assumed commitments. Furthermore, promising not to admit of propaganda that might contribute to an escalation of the conflict, it promoted flagrant disinformation on the disaster in Transdniestria with the help of mass media from the start to the end of the conflict.

The representatives of the population that lived through the hardships of the neo-Bolshevik regime in the Eastern part of Moldova addressed the CSCE Council asking it to work out, on the basis of the

four-party accords (between Russia, Moldova, Romania and the Ukraine), an effective international mechanism to settle the conflict. They also asked the United Nations and the CSCE to send military observers to supervise the observance of the accords and to take measures to exert pressure on Russia with a view to attaining an unconditional withdrawal of the 14th Army from the territory of Moldova and to honor its commitments in line with international documents, the memorandum points out.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev To Attend 22 Jan Minsk CIS Summit

LD0701184193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The president of Kazakhstan will take part in the 22 January Minsk meeting of Commonweealth heads of state. This was announced today to a KAZTAG correspondent by the press service of Nursultan Nazarbayev. It is expected that he will adopt a firm, unambigious position aimed at the development of and giving specific content to those accords that were agreed previously within the framework of the CIS. In the opinion of the president of Kazakhstan, the Commonwealth should be clearly built on mutually beneficial relations of all the sovereign states, without exception.

In the meantime, around 200 resolutions adopted by the leaders of the countries participating in the CIS are not working.

Nazarbayev Meets With European Bank President

LD0701194693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1933 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By KAZTAG correspondent Vladimir Cherkizov for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata January 7 TASS—Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev met with Jacques Attali, president of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), on Thursday [7 January] to discuss a wide range of issues of mutual concern.

Nazarbayev informed Attali about the pace of economic reforms in the republic. Attali welcomed changes in Kazakhstan and its movement towards a market-oriented economy and said the bank could grant necessary credits to the republic if it provides state guarantees.

Speaking about the recent meeting of the leaders of five former Soviet Central Asian republics, Nazarbayev said its results reiterate their adherence towards economic integration with other CIS states.

European Bank To Give Credit

OW0801122493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Jacques Attali has reported to journalists that he has arrived in Kazakhstan to familiarize himself with the political and economic situation there.

He disclosed at the news-conference held in Alma-Ata in the evening on Thursday [7 January] at the end of his meeting with President Nazarbayev that the European Bank intended to finance such key fields in Kazakhstan as banking, agriculture, the construction of oil pipe lines and transport communications as well as property privatization. The Bank will also take part in training skilled managerial personnel for Kazakhstan and will give assistance to the growing private sector.

In Mr. Attali's words, the Bank will help Kazakhstan to fundamentally reconstruct its banking sector, set up new investment banks with foreign partners to participate, and grant credits to Kazakh banking structures.

Mr. Attali's departure for London - Friday's morning. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Kazakh National Bank Galym Baynazarov has told IF [INTERFAX] that the republican cabinet and the European Bank have agreed to set up joint banks. He stressed that Kazakhstan had such experience already: two joint Kazakh-Turkish banks had been opened in Turkey.

Mr. Baynazarov reported that Kazakhstan and the European Bank were now studying the possibility of financing the construction of an oil pipe-line.

There is yet another lucrative project - a credit for the agroindustrial complex with the European Bank to fund only private businesses. Mr. Bainazarov also reported that at his recent talks with Jacques Attali in London, the Kazakh Agriculture Minister Baltash Tursumbayev, Kazakhstan's vice- premier, had reached agreement to set up several joint banks to finance his republic's agriculture.

Economic Corporation Chief Meets Premier Tereshchenko

LD0701175293 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko today received Shamshad Ahmad, secretary general of the Economic Corporation Organization, who is in Alma-Ata. The regional organization was set up in 1985 by the governments of Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan, whose main aim is to promote the economic development of its member countries by way of cooperation in the spheres of industry, communications, and the expansion of contacts in the scientific and technical sphere.

The organization faces new tasks after Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan became fully fledged members of this organization a few months ago. Shamshad Ahmad expressed his readiness to consider all issues which new member countries of the organization propose. He stressed that the problems now being resolved by the organization include a 10-percent reduction in trade tarriffs and the creation of a regional bank which will function on the princples of an international bank.

As a result of new members joining, which makes them a strong international organization, plans are being made to install satellite communications, to make investments

in the development of the infrastructure and private sector, and to organize insurance and shipping companies.

Alma-Ata, Tehran To Promote Shipping Trade

OW0801121793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan and Iran plan to reconstruct the Caspian sea piers and intensify shipping.

The Kazak Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko and Iran's Ambassador Rasul Eslami discussed this issue in Alma-Ata on Thursday [7 January]. The Iranian diplomat voiced his country's wish to trade bread, coal, and other minerals, oil included, for consumer goods.

Further discussion of bilateral cooperation is expected during the forthcoming visit to Kazakhstan by an Iranian government delegation, led by the Minister of Trade.

During the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's tour of Iran last October, trade and economic agreements were signed and a joint commission was set up to promote business ties.

Daily Reports 4 Billion Rubles To Be Spent on Arms

LD0701195393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Jan 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The daily agency Glasnost reports that the Kazakh Government intends spending 4 billion rubles on purchasing arms and military hardware in 1993.

Kyrgyzstan

President Opposes 'Authoritarian Regime'

OW0701140493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1313 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his interview with the newspaper "Vecherni Bishkek" ("Evening Bishkek") on January 6, President Askar Akayev declared that the authoritarian regime is not acceptable for Kyrgyzstan, although it would facilitate the introduction of the economic reforms into life. The President pointed out that over the last few years the people of Kyrgyzstan have felt the taste of democracy and freedom, and the authoritarianism is impossible in the republic.

Akayev said that when the political and economic situation necessitates a tough course, he is forced to overcome himself, because according to his human nature he is not inclined to the dictatorship.

Akayev sincerely hopes that nobody leaves Kyrgyzstan fearful of the possibility of the infringing of national feelings, interests and absence of hope for the future.

The president also declared that until he stands at the head of the government, he will do his utmost to preserve the cultural and language area of other nationalities, in particular, the Russian population.

President Wants 'Active, Functioning' CIS

LD0701183493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev is in favor of holding the Minsk meeting of the CIS heads of state on 22 January. In a telephone interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, he stressed that his viewpoint regarding everything to do with the CIS has not changed at all.

According to Askar Akayev, what is important is that the Commonwealth should be an active, functioning mechanism, rather than a mere formality.

Tajikistan

Further on State of Emergency, Arms Confiscation

LD0801122393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0940 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zheleznov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan—The state of emergency in the capital of Tajikistan and adjacent rayons was introduced last night first and foremost to confiscate weapons from illegal armed formations in the shortest possible period, Tajik Ambassador to Russia Dzhamshed Karimov announced today in a talk with an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He added that they represent the main destabilizing factor in the situation in Tajikistan today.

As is well known, the ambassador reminded, 4 January was the expiration date of the government's ultimatum to the illegal armed formations according to which they had to lay down their arms. This warning, like previous ones, did not have noticeable results, yet the population is insistent in their demands for tough measures from the authorities which ensure its safety.

Referring to a telephone conversation which he had this morning with Internal Affairs Minister Yakubdzhon Salimov, Dzhamshed Karimov said that the situation in the capital and adjacent rayons is quiet. Subunits of the republic's internal troops with the assistance of personnel from the 201st Russian motor-rifle division have started a thorough examination of all transport entering and leaving the region.

Acting Commmander Says Peacekeeping Forces 'Unlikely'

LD0701173293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Peacekeeping forces are unlikely to be brought into Tajikistan, Colonel Anatoliy Uglik, the temporary acting commander of the 201st Russian Motor Rifle Division, announced today in an interview given to INTERFAX. He noted that a postponement of several months on the decision to introduce troops is evidence of this. Until now specific periods have not been named by either Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, or Kazakhstan, which were intending to send their military contingents to Tajikistan.

Government Announces Plans To Repair War Damage, Economy

LD0701093493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0921 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By KHOVAR news agency correspondent for TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe January 7 TASS—Tajikistan intends to use 90 per cent of all state resources for the restoration of the national economy, the construction of housing and other facilities in Hatlon region hit by the months-long civil war, Tajik Prime Minister Abdumalik Abdullodzhanov has announced.

In Vakhsh valley, which is part of the region, the largest industrial plants have been destroyed, motor transport plundered or destroyed and a large damage has been inflicted on health care institutions. The aggregate floor space of destroyed houses there is more than 400,000 square metres.

A report issued by the government admits that Tajikistan is unable to cope with the economic rehabilitation task and counts on assistance from CIS partners and other states as well as international organisations.

Mountainous Regions Experiencing Critical Food Shortages

LD0701092893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0914 GMT 7 Jan 93

[By KHOVAR news agency correspondent—TASS]

[Text] Dushanbe January 7 TASS—The problem of providing the inhabitants of the Pamirs—high-mountain areas of Tajikistan—with staple foods assumes particular urgency. The stocks of bread have been practically exhausted and there is an increasing number of people falling ill because of undernourishment.

At a meeting of economic managers here on Wednesday [6 January], Tajikistan's Deputy Premier Abdurahmon Muktashov announced urgent measures to improve the situation: Motor transport and aviation are being used for urgent deliveries of food and medicines.

The food resources of Tajikistan are obviously insufficient to cater for the population. Muktashov expressed gratitude to Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan that found possibilities to render humanitarian aid and moral support to the people of Tajikistan. A massive supply of lubricants, food and medicines to Tajikistan has begun.

Parliament Head Says Leadership Committed to Human Rights

OW0701195093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [7 January], Chairman of the Tajik parliament Imamali Rakhmanov received a delegation of women from the Gorno-Badakhshanskaya Autonomous Region (the Pamirs), who expressed their concern about discrimination against the population of the Pamirs and about food shortages.

Rakhmanov promised them to investigate all instances of discrimination and to send an additional consignment of food and medicines to Gorno-Badakhshanskaya. He also assured the delegates that the policy of the current Tajik leadership is based on the observance of human rights irrespective of the citizens' ethnic origin.

Salimov Named Khatlon Oblast Executive Committee Chairman

LD0701145593 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0100 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The first constituent session of the soviet of the newly-formed Khatlon Oblast was held in Kurgan-Tyube city. The session examined organizational issues. Abduljalol Salimov, until now working as deputy minister of the Motor Transport Ministry of the Republic of Tajikistan, was elected as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Soviet of People's Deputies of Khatlon Oblast.

At the session, an appeal was read by Sangak Safarov, chairman of the National Front of the Republic of Tajikistan, addressed to the inhabitants of Khatlon Oblast and to the citizens of the republic. The appeal calls for the unity of the country to be preserved.

The session was attended by Abdolmajid Dustiyev, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Commentary Ponders Future of Central Asia

LD0701180193 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 0400 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] A treaty on comprehensive cooperation between Tajikistan and Kazakhstan is to be signed in Alma-Ata in

three days' time. It will be the second treaty on cooperation and mutual assistance to be signed by Imamali Rakhmanov, our head of state.

The Tashkent summit meeting determined that the four Central Asian states and Kazakhstan will make joint efforts toward economic integration and the joint resolution of economic problems facing these states following the collapse of the USSR. Tashkent gave the go-ahead to the organization of a qualitatively new regional market which has the prerequisites to rapidly become one of the richest in the world. The three main and most important factors for this are present: very rich raw material resources, very rich labor resources, and finally very favorable climatic conditions.

It would appear that after the Belovezhskaya split the heads of Central Asian countries should have decided to hold a meeting and talk about setting up their own union. It is clear that not one republic which belonged to the former USSR can survive on its own. The more developed states rejected the less developed ones, probably supposing that they could become a great burden. That means that the rejected states have to survive through their own resources. Undoubtedly it may be easier together. The heads of Central Asian states understand this. However, the torpedo attack from the Slav troika was so unexpected that even the recognized political leaders were shocked. Had Nazarbayev or Karimov taken the initiative urgently and convened a conference of heads of Central Asian states to set up a new union, the directions of our joint development would have been defined today, as would a precise and clear program. We have already had a whole year of joint work experience.

However, the writing of the pages of history goes on inexorably. Probably history defined this regional union for our time, and at the same time confirmed that a union of Central Asian states is historically unavoidable and we are the witnesses to its birth. The union of these states will have great economic potential. Along with the joint solution of immediate tasks, the question of the Central Asian states having an exit to the Persian Gulf and Pacific Ocean will be further elaborated.

Clearly the implementation of this project is a task for the future, but it is completely realistic. This confidence is based on the aspiration of fraternal peoples for unity and on their aspiration to live in their big country in peace and prosperity.

*Strongholds Seized with Russian, Uzbek Aid

93US0271A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 Dec 92 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Tajik, Russian Forces Defeat Rebels]

[Text] A high-ranking Tajik official announced to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that forces loyal to the government yesterday seized two important strongholds of the opposition forces after a week of fierce fighting. In a telephone conversation from the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, the chairman of the parliament, Imamali Rakhmanov, affirmed that losses were heavy on both sides.

He said that the government forces found important support in the Russian and Uzbek forces, which used helicopter gunships to attack the two rebel strongholds. The latter shot down two of the Uzbek aircraft. Rakhmanov said that the village of (Kafr Nishan) 25 km to the east of Dushanbe fell at dawn yesterday and that a three-point peace plan had been offered to the fundamentalist rebels. This is a plan based on ad hoc discussions among all of the political sides and religious groups, conditioned on the delivery of all heavy arms to the legitimate government and the deployment of Commonwealth of Independent States forces to guard vital installations in all parts of the country.

The Tajik leader warned Afghanistan of "the consequences of inciting unrest in his country by sending armed mojahedin to fight on the rebels' side." He said in conclusion that a number of rebel commanders had been killed or captured during the battle.

A spokesman for the Russian forces on the border with Afghanistan said that the situation in southern Tajikistan along the Afghan border was still very unstable since the number of refugees had been augmented by a large number of fighters from the rebel forces.

The spokesman stated that about 4,000 of these refugees attacked and occupied a border center, that the gathering of refugees had become dangerous, and that the situation is deteriorating further. Finally, he said that the Russian forces' headquarters had officially warned the Tajik Government of this danger.

Turkmenistan

President Comments on CIS Mechanism, Country's Future

LD0801074493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0726 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By TURKMEN PRESS correspondents for TASS]

[Text] Ashgabat January 8 TASS—"The CIS mechanism must function on consultative principles, some questions may be discussed collectively and exchange of experience should take place. But the Commonwealth of Independent States must be a point on the same level with the member states," President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan told TURKMEN PRESS in an interview published by the Republic's newspapers today.

President Niyazov stressed the need "to create a financial system to facilitate the economic development of each (country) and not slow it down."

Speaking about the fate of Turkmenistan, Saparmurad Niyazov said: "Turkmenistan which has become a truly independent state and a full-fledged member of the

United Nations intends to use this historic chance in the interests of the people. We are now going through a complicated period of transition from one state of society to another. Turkmenistan will develop on the basis of its people's national identity."

Uzbekistan

President Continues To Support CIS

LD0701162193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] The Minsk meeting is to be a turning point in many respects, Uzbek President Islam Karimov has told journalists. According to him, it is too early to bury the Commonwealth of Independent States. Possibilities for mutually beneficial cooperation have by no means been exhausted. The head of Uzbekistan still intends to take part in the January summit meeting. He is now getting ready for the trip to Minsk. If the meeting yields no results, the heads of states of Central Asia have agreed to urgently meet in Ashgabat. Belorusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich spoke in favor of adopting the CIS statute. He said the signing of the document could establish the beginning of a new Commonwealth.

Karimov Warns Against Muslim Fundamentalism

OW0701161893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In the first several months of the armed conflict, Tajikistan has suffered losses comparable to those of World War II, Uzbek President Islam Karimov said at a press conference with German journalists today. Nearly 100,000 people have fallen victim to the armed confrontations and the activities surrounding them.

The President pinned the blame for the conflict on the local politicians as well as on certain political forces. In his words, preparations for the warfare in Tajikistan had been conducted for many years. He referred to numerous groups of Tajik militants who were trained abroad as much as at mountain training bases on Tajik territory by Afghan and Pakistani instructors. Afghanistan still keeps over half a million people under arm, Islam Karimov said, reminding that they are used to warfare and no longer know how to till the land.

President Karimov issued another warning against the danger of penetration of Muslim fundamentalism across the Afghan-Tajik border. He drew the journalists' attention to the fact that at their recent meeting the leaders of five Central Asian states confirmed that they regard the Afghan-Tajik border as common not only for this region but for the entire Commonwealth as well.

In summation, Islam Karimov said that he saw his primary mission in insuring national and civic conciliation and stability.

[In a related report carried by Moscow INTERFAX at 1558 GMT on 7 January, Karimov is reported to have told the German reporters that "Germany is too slow in exploring the Central Asian markets." The report says Karimov went on to point out that there are only nine Uzbek-German enterprises extant in Uzbekistan.

["He also reminded the audience that Uzbek legislators had passed laws guaranteeing protection to foreign investments, providing foreign investors with tax privileges and ensuring free exports of their incomes and duty-free delivery of consumer goods. Karimov also said that Uzbekistan's solvency is guaranteed not only by the output of the joint enterprises, but also by cotton, non-ferrous metals, equipment and a solid gold reserve kept in Swiss banks. Uzbekistan is the world's 8th biggest producer of gold, he said." The report ends by noting Karimov announced plans to visit Germany in 1993.]

Karimov Announces 80 Tons of Gold Mined in 1992

OW0701142893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1313 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov announced during a press conference on Thursday [7 January], that his republic mined 80 tons of gold in 1992, which makes Uzbekistan the world's 8th largest producer of gold.

He said, however, that Uzbekistan could mine even more gold. The Uzbek government has intensified the development of mountainous, river and desert gold deposits and is building new enterprises for making gold ingots.

Armenia

U.S.-Russian Statement 'Success' for Armenian Diplomacy

NC0701213393 Yerevan SNARK in English 1459 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 7 (SNARK)—The statement the Russian and USA Presidents did on Nagorno-Karabakh is similar to the Armenian leadership position on peaceful regulation of the Karabakh conflict and is the great success of the Armenian diplomacy, Babken Araktsyan, speaker of the Armenian parliament said. The Russian-American statement deals with Nagorno-Karabakh without defining its territorial belonging. The Russian, French and the U.S. Presidents support Levon Ter-Petrosyan, as the Armenian president, and his position to the immediate ceasing the fire and the peaceful negotiation.

Fighting Updated; Power Stations Depleting Lake Sevan

LD0801112993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0840 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Yerevan is now on the line to our studio. With the assistance of our correspondent Koryun Khumaryan, we shall now bring you the latest news from Armenia.

[Khumaryan] Hello. Well, the new year and Christmas festivities in Armenia are at an end. In their Christmas messages to the people, republican President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Catholicos Vazgen I, patriarch of all Armenians, expressed the hope that 1993 will be a year of peace for the long-suffering land of Karabakh and Armenia's border areas. Unfortunately, both the republican and Karabakh news services are, like last year, providing little comforting news.

Last night, indeed yesterday evening and throughout the night, military bases in Azerbaijan shelled the Armenian village of Krasnyy Bazar in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic's Martuninskiy Rayon. Fighting from fixed positions continues in the Geglosavan area. This village and the surrounding heights are comfortably controlled by the self-defence forces of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Populated areas in Armenia's northeastern border rayons have also been under massive bombardment. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Armenia itself remains in an extremely difficult situation. Over the past 24 hours, only 4.5 million cubic meters of gas have arrived in the republic. This is not even enough to keep heat stations working, so industry and the population are still without natural gas. In order to somehow provide the republican population with power for at least eight or nine hours, the Sevano-Razdanskiy cascade power stations are working at full capacity.

This means that the water level in Lake Sevan, up in the mountains, will drop several more meters. I remind you that Sevan is not just a natural reservoir for the entire trans-Caucasian region but also an efficient source of drinking water. If Sevan becomes more shallow, it will initiate irreversible natural processes that would be fatal for the entire trans-Caucasus. The very worst could follow from Sevan becoming more shallow.

This is well understood by the leadership and population of Armenia, and they have recourse to it only when there is no other option. It also needs to be understood by our neighbors who are preventing Armenia's access to natural gas and unloading fuels intended for Armenia on their own territory. They also need to understand that no one will ever bring Armenia or the Armenian people to their knees by such methods, such acts [word indistinct] blatant and undisguised aggression on our borders.

This is also mentioned in the statement by Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, which is published today, regarding the appeal from Presidents Yeltsin and Bush to the warring sides in Nagorno-Karabakh. I quote: The conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh can and should be settled not by military but by peaceful means, not on the battlefield but at the negotiating table. Confrontation based on arithmetical calculations and false premises about achieving unilateral military supremacy are criminal and fruitless, close quote. [passage omitted]

French President Promises Humanitarian Assistance

NC0701212293 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1830 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] In response to the Armenian president's appeal issued on 7 December, French President Francois Mitterrand sent a message to President Levon Ter-Petrosyan in which he specifically wrote:

France cannot remain indifferent to the dangers threatening your people. We are full of resolve to continue the operations for humanitarian assistance in order to alleviate as much as possible the trials that befall Armenia this winter. Our embassy in Yerevan will in due manner inform us about your requests, which we will try to meet.

The crucial problem of a blockade, to which France gives particular attention, needs a political solution. During my meetings with the Turkish president and Turkish officials, I drew their attention to our desire to see normal communications routes with Armenia restored. I have instructed our ambassadors accredited to the capitals of the countries involved in the issue to appeal to the authorities of these countries with the suggestion of acting in the same manner. A similar demarche has been made to the Georgian Government.

I have no doubt that the Armenian people, who have lived through numerous grim moments throughout their history, will display the necessary daring to surmount the current trial.

The Armenian people should rest assured that in all cases they can count on France's sympathy and solicitude.

Presidential, Parliamentary Elections Set for Fall

NC0701214993 Yerevan SNARK in English 1522 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Yerevan, January 7 (SNARK)—Babken Araktsyan. speaker of the Armenian parliament, has informed SNARK's reporter of the fact that new elections to the position of the Armenian president and the Armenian parliament will take place in fall, 1993. The Armenians should have chance to make their political choice in connection with the social and political situation which has been changed in Armenia. The elections will take place only after the acceptance of the new Armenian constitution. Araktsyan is sure that the president form is the only necessary way of government in Armenia. The parliamentarian republic is possible only in better political situation.

Azerbaijan

Elchibey Appeals to Bush, Yeltsin, Agrees to Cooperate

NC0701221693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Appeal by President Abulfaz Elchibey to President George Bush and President Boris Yeltsin; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Mr. Presidents, your joint statement on the bloody war between Armenia and Azerbaijan and your serious call for an immediate end to military operations and [words indistinct] have indicated that you [words indistinct] cherish goodwill and you are deeply disturbed by the great loss of life and destruction. This is greatly appreciated.

However, the people of Azerbaijan are completely dissatisfied with the approach maintained by the international community and the influential countries. Obviously, Armenia has resorted to open aggression against Azerbaijan to forcibly wrest various parts of our republic's territory, which is recognized by all countries. The resolution the Armenian parliament adopted to unite Daghlykh Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] with Armenia, regardless of the fact that this area is recognized as a part of Azerbaijan's territory, brought to light Armenia's true intentions. But this fact has been ignored and no political assessment has been made on the matter. Meanwhile, the Armenian parliament's resolution has still not been abrogated for one reason or another.

Armenia's (?aggression) is not limited to the occupation of the mountainous region in Karabakh. Armenia also has occupied other parts of Azerbaijan, including Lachinskiy Rayon, five towns in Kazakhskiy Rayon, [placename indistinct] in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR], and nine towns in Zangelanskiy Rayon. Furthermore, it has incessantly fired on all the towns and villages along the entire border with rocket launchers and artillery and launched many attacks on Azerbaijan's defenseless people.

Armenia also has imposed a blockade on the NAR, whose people desperately need essential commodities, [word indistinct], and electricity.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that all the combat operations have taken place exclusively in Azerbaijan's territory. In short, the incidents between Armenia and Azerbaijan have not been caused by a dispute [words indistinct] between the two sides. They have been caused by a state of aggression. Ending the bloody war before the aggressor is established is impossible. That is the main reason for the prolongation of the war.

Using its many and influential militants in the diaspora, the aggressor has made an effort to blame others for the war, divert the world's attention from the nature of the incidents, and [word indistinct] the policy maintained by influential countries. In fact, Armenia's effort has enjoyed some success. This is confirmed by the discriminatory move made by the U.S. Congress to [words indistinct] without any reason and to deprive Azerbaijan of the support it greatly needs in the difficult stage of the effort it is making to establish democracy.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that Armenia has undermined all peace initiatives and drowned in blood all the effort that has been made to find a political way to end the war.

Armenian nationalists committed a massacre against the Azerbaijani people in Khodzhaly immediately after the three foreign ministers met and issued a joint statement in Moscow in February 1992. Thousands of innocent people were [words indistinct].

A cease-fire agreement was signed in Tehran in March 1992, but Armenia launched a violent attack and occupied Shusha in Azerbaijan on the same day. [passage indistinct]

Mr. Presidents, the [words indistinct] and the merciless confrontation between Azerbaijan and Armenia is increasing the loss of life, seriously harming the economy of the two republics, weakening the democratic trends in development, and threatening the situation in the Caucasus region. In view of this, we wish to inform you that we support any effort to quickly remove the confrontation between the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples in a just way and on the basis of the international [word indistinct], norms, and laws, which are supported by the entire world. We also wish to inform you that we are prepared to participate in any arrangements that will be made in that regard.

I convey my respects.

[signed] Abulfaz Elchibey.

Meeting To Be Held With Armenia on POW Issue

OW0801141393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1349 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A meeting between representatives of the Armenian and Azerbaijani defense ministries is planned for January 12th in Kazakh (Azerbaijan). According to information from the Armenian defense ministry press center, the issue of developing a procedure to exchange prisoners and hostages will be discussed.

Attack in Northwest Repulsed; Lachin Battle Goes On

NC0701161593 Baku TURAN in English 1315 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Baku 7 Jan (TURAN)—Within twenty-four hours the sub-units of the Armenian Army have launched some attacks on the frontier heights in the region of Tauzskiy which is on the northern-west of Azerbaijan. According to the Ministry of Defence all attacks were beaten. One BMP [armored personnel carrier] of the enemy was put out of action.

This morning Armenian forces started shelling from the town of Tauzskiy and a number of the frontier villages. Measures on suppression of the weapon emplacements of the Armenian Army are undertaken.

On the north of the region of Lachinskiy the sub-units of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces continue successful battles on the releasing of the villages, captured by the Armenian Army. In the results of the last operations the Azeri sub-units have approached close to the road of Lachinskiy, controlled by the Armenian sub-units.

Ministry Reports Downing of Armenian Helicopter

LD0801111093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1053 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By AZERTAC correspondent Sabir Mirzoyev]

[Text] Baku January 8 TASS—An Armenian airforce helicopter was shot down above northern Karabakh uplands today. It crashed killing all the crew. According to the Azeri Defence Ministry's information and analytical centre, the air defence force of the republic shot down seven Armenian military helicopters and one plane in the past two months.

The situation on the Azeri-Armenian border remains tense. The Azeri Defence Ministry sources told AZERTAC Armenian artillery and infantry guns were used to shoot on the village of Kegna-Kyshlak of the Akstafa district and the village of Novoivanovka of the Kadabek district in Azerbaijan. Much damage was caused by the fire.

Foreign Ministry Protests Armenian 'Propaganda'

NC0701163793 Baku TURAN in English 1107 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Baku 7 Jan (TURAN)—The Azeri minister of foreign affairs has expressed the decisive protest in connection with the Armenian propaganda against Azerbaijan.

The announcement of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs "on the intention of Azerbaijan to draw Armenia into the large-scaled war" called as the usual fantasy in the announcement of the Azeri Minister of Foreign Affairs, spread yesterday.

The Azeri side asserts that "the main character" of the conflict is Armenia which has annexed the part of Azeri territory, making its presence in Karabakh and in the frontier regions more active and conducting the active military actions against Azerbaijan.

"Azerbaijan comes out in favour of the peaceful regulating of the conflict, but nevertheless can not submit neither with the continuing occupation of its lands nor with the passiveness of the international organizations in this issue and is full of decision to release the captured lands and to turn the aggressor out of its territory."

The Azeri Ministry of Foreign Affairs has refuted the announcement of Armenia that the Azeri artillery shells the territory of Armenia from the frontier Russian villages situated on the territory of Azerbaijan.

Parliament Adopts Law on Privatization

NC0701211493 Baku AZERTAC in Azeri 1553 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Baku, 7 Jan (AZERTAC)—The Azerbaijani National Assembly adopted the law on privatization today. In accordance with the law, the privatization will be implemented in phases and only with the use of the republic's national currency, the manat.

Within two years of the adoption of the law, trade and communal service sectors and small and medium enterprises will be privatized. The law provides that the state property assigned for sale will be privatized through auctions and sale of shares and will be transferred to labor collectives without any charge. The law stipulates that foreign proprietors can own only 49 percent of the value of any enterprise.

New Party Registers With Justice Ministry

NC0701163993 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1156 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Baku 07.01.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—One more party-Azerbaijan party 'Gummet' was registered in the Ministry of Justice. The main political aim is struggle for power with the aim of building of humane state in Azerbaijan. The party is going to publish in the future the magazine in German, English, Arabic in the name of

solidarity of all the Azerbaijanis in the world—said Guzasaf Amirkhanli, the chairman of the party, to ASSA-IRADA.

Turkey Says it Will Not Aid Armenian Aggressors

LD0801073393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0600 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Turkey has reassured Azerbaijan that the agreement reached at the end of 1992 on supplying 2 billion kilowatts of electricity from Turkey to Armenia and the transit of humanitarian cargo destined for Armenia via Turkish territory will come into force only when Yerevan halts combat actions against Azerbaijan. This was revealed by Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov in an interview with the ZERKALO newspaper.

Tehran, Baku Create 2 Free Trade Zones

OW0701144893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri government's press center reports that Baku and Tehran have established free-trade zones for each other's businessmen in the ports of Enzeli (Iran) and Lenkoran (Azerbaijan).

The decision to create such zones was made during the recent talks between Azeri Prime Minister Rakhim Guseynov and a delegation from the Iranian province of Gilan.

Gas Supply From Turkmenistan Reduced

LD0801105193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0941 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By AZERTAJ correspondent Alla Baula for TASS]

[Text] Baku, 8 Jan—The supply of gas from Turkmenistan to Azerbaijan has been reduced starting today. Its daily volume will now amount to 11 million cubic meters, of which 3 million cubic meters are earmarked for Georgia, instead of 14 million cubic meters.

Informing the gas workers of Azerbaijan about this, their counterparts in Turkmenistan explain the reduction in supplies by referring to Uzbekistan's decision to reduce the conveyance of fuel across its territory.

Georgia

Shevardnadze Reveals Talks With Russia To Take Place

OW0801111093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Georgian Parliament's Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze has voiced hope that Georgia and Russia, whose current relations are not their best, will get over this period of chill. In an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX] on January 7, celebrated by Orthodox Christians as Christmas, the Georgian leader revealed that the new round of bilateral talks was scheduled to start on January 20.

"It's now very important - he stressed - to complete the drafting of all agreements that will govern relations between the two countries. This work is nearing the end." If efforts to coordinate all basic accords succeed, and Mr. Shevardnadze believes it's feasible, then a summit with President Boris Yeltsin can take place in principle. The Georgian leader believes that it could be held, with Mr. Yeltsin's consent, in late January-early February.

As for Georgia's recent appeal to the United Nations to consider the possibility of sending a peace-keeping force to the zone of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict, that action in Mr. Shevardnadze's words, aims at stepping up international bodies' efforts to facilitate the implementation of the Russo-Georgian agreement signed in Moscow on September 3 last year. Mr. Shevardnadze implies a dispatch of observers.

However, the Georgian leader specifically stressed that Tbilisi did not rule out at all the chance of a peace mission by Moscow. "We are for a settlement to be secured within the framework of the agreement that was signed in Moscow."

Asked about speculations that he's been sick (heart trouble), Mr. Shevardnadze dismissed them by saying that "there had not been such a condition that would call for doctors' assistance." He said that he had not met his personal doctor lately and joked that good wishers had circulated rumors about his poor health. They know that "I am a workaholic and by such 'preventive measures' warn that I can get sick under such regime" [sentence as received].

Shevardnadze Meets Sakharov Committee Vice President

LD0701170593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1544 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 7 TASS—Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze met with Vice-President of the International Sakharov Committee Hans Christian Nirskof on Thursday, Shevardnadze's spokesman Revaz Egadze told ITAR-TASS by phone.

Nirskof, who is in Tbilisi at the invitation of head of the Georgian Church Ilja II, congratulated Shevardnadze with Orthodox Christmas and familiarised him with a project to print 400,000 copies of the New Testament in Georgia. The books will be donated to secondary schools.

Spokesman Denies Reports of Shevardnadze Heart Attack

OW0701160093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1555 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze's press secretary Revaz Edgadze has refuted the reports by the Western media about a heart attack suffered by the chairman of the Georgian parliament. "January 6 was Shevardnadze's ordinary working day which finished at about midnight," said Edgadze. In the morning January 7, Shevardnadze received an American delegation.

Troops Said To Shoot Down Russian Plane in Abkhazia

OW0701132793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday night a Russian SU-25 plane crashed down near the village of Eshera in the Sukhumi Region, the Georgian embassy's press center in Moscow announced on January 7, with reference to the Abkhazian Information Ministry. The Georgian special services had intercepted radio talks between Abkhazian formations, which suggest that the SU-25 plane had been shot down by mistake.

The press center of the Abkhazian parliament announced that Abkhazian pilot Major Oleg Chanba did not return from a night flight on Wednesday. No information was given about the type of the plane piloted by Chanba. The Abkhazian Defense Ministry reports that Chanba's plane was shot down by Georgian troops in Sukhumi suburbs "following a brilliantly performed combat mission, which inflicted considerable damage on the Georgian military aviation." The press center of the Georgian embassy in Moscow said that during the night one woman was killed by the Abkhazian artillery's shelling of densely populated districts of Sukhumi. Five civilians were wounded and taken to the hospital.

Abkhazian Statement on Plane Downing

LD0701190693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1827 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow January 7 TASS—The press secretary of the Georgian leader relayed by phone the following statement by the Abkhazian Council of Ministers to ITAR-TASS on Thursday:

"On January 6, 1993, two helicopters escorted by a Russian SU-25 military plane arrived from Gudauta to the Russian airborne battalion stationed in Sukhumi. Having accomplished the escort mission, the Su-25 headed for Gudauta. After flying over the front line along the Gumista River, it was shot down by Abkhazian militants in the zone controlled by the Abkhazian side. The pilot ejected from the plane. Russian military helicopters which were sent to the site of accident also came under fire. The Georgian side has a record of conversation between the helicopters' pilots during the attack on the plane."

'Resolute Steps' Urged in Abkhazian War

LD0701140593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 4

[Besik Urigashvili report: "Georgia: Confrontation Within the Leadership Against a Backdrop of War"]

[Text] Georgian head of state Eduard Shevardnadze has sent a message to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali asking him to have the question of introducing UN peacekeeping forces into the Abkhazian conflict zone considered at the next Security Council session. At the same time, he has warned neighboring states against interference in Georgia's internal affairs, implying Russia first and foremost.

Ths appeal was preceded by the stepping up of military operations in Abkhazia just before the New Year, as well as in the first few days of 1993, especially in Ochamchirskiy Rayon, where the Abkhazians are resorting to methods of partisan warfare. Meanwhile rocket-artillery duels between the warring sides have intensified in the Sukhumi area. On 4 January the city suffered the most concentrated bombardment since the beginning of the war. As a result of recent combat operations, several dozen people have died on both sides, servicemen and civilians alike.

The latest events testify that the war in the extreme west of Georgia—in the Abkhazian autonomous formation—has entered a new phase, and the warring sides are preparing to engage in extensive combat operations. Judging by the information coming in from the front line, only the bad weather conditions—the cold and the heavy snow—are hindering this.

The Georgian side is being urged to take resolute steps in the conflict zone primarily by radical sentiments among the troops and among the Georgian population of Abkhazia. The advocates of resolute military operations in parliament, the Army, and among the population are backing their stance with the argument that the war is taking dozens of lives every week anyway, and the inhabitants of Sukhumi have virtually become hostages of the situation—a convenient target and cannon fodder for the Abkhazian artillery. The refugees from Gagra, Lesepidze, and Gantiadi are in a particularly implacable frame of mind. As we know, these population centers were occupied by Abkhazian-North Caucasian armed formations at the beginning of October, and the Georgian population, which made up the majority there, was subsequently pushed out, this being the beginning of the virtual colonization of these places by Abkhazian repatriates and North Caucasians participating in the battles on the side of the Abkhazians.

However, highly eminent specialists in the Georgian Army, for example, General Anatoliy Kamkamidze, former deputy commander of the Carpathian Miiitary District who is now Georgian first deputy minister of defense and commander of the troops, and several other commanders, believe that the launching of major military operations, especially west of Sukhumi in the Gudauta direction, is liable to result in huge casualties both among the military and among the civilian population. "Time is on our side," a senior official in the Georgian Army Staff told me. "We have the undisputable advantage in terms of both manpower and equipment, and we have far greater potential to boost this advantage with an intelligent and far-sighted policy. At the same time, the intensive organizational development of a full-fledged Georgian Army is in progress, and its organization and discipline are being raised. Our enemies' argument that they are waging a liberation war and therefore they have moral strength on their side, is unsound. No one, not even the Lord himself, can prove to the guys from Gagra, Ochamchira, Sukhumi, Tbilisi, and other cities and villages in Georgia that they are not fighting for their own land. So, I repeat, time is on our side."

But meanwhile impatience is growing in society. Alongside the numerous casualties reported on Georgian television news programs every day, this impatience is also feeding on the ever-worsening economic crisis, the acuteness of which people are in many respects—and not without good reason—linking with the Abkhazian war. In all pre-New Year interviews, ordinary citizens were demanding primarily an end to the war. Many people implied war resulting in victory, while others wanted peace at any cost.

Bearing in mind the mood in the Army and in society, Shevardnadze took a very risky but politically very accurate step. On 31 December he traveled to Ochamchira and Sukhumi and spent New Year's Eve in the trenches and on the front line, once again demonstrating his outstanding personal courage to the whole of Georgia. At the same time he raised his rating among the military and found out the soldiers' frame of mind from the horse's mouth.

Many people believe that this was absolutely vital and they are linking it with the latest exacerbation in relations between the head of state and parliament on the one hand, and Minister of Defense Tengiz Kitovani and the forces standing behind him on the other hand. The differences between the head of state and the minister of defense, which are not widely publicized, are nevertheless an open secret and recently found their way onto the pages of the press. In an interview with the right-wing nationalist opposition newspaper IBERIYA-SPEKTR, Tengiz Kitovani stated unequivocally that a military dictatorship would not hurt Georgia at all. Many of his replies contained unequivocal threats to members of parliament. Returning from Moscow, where he met with Russian Minister of Defense Grachev, Kitovani reiterated his stance in a television interview. Shevardnadze avoided commenting on these statements made by Kitovani, and parliament was not able to express its attitude to them either since it was in recess for the holiday.

It is now hard to say how this confrontation will be resolved, but one thing is clear—it must be resolved one way or another. At the request of the head of state, the minister of defense was not endorsed by parliament. This procedure was postponed for two months. At the same time, especially following Kitovani's statements, the chances of his being endorsed by parliament are very slight. It is also clear that this confrontation cannot continue for long, because it is having a direct effect both on the Army's fighting efficiency and on the situation in society.

The journalists and observers who are drawing the most far-reaching conclusions do not rule out the possibility of direct armed clashes in the struggle for power in the Georgian political leadership. They are even saying that some third force may intervene here. However, the threat of a direct political confrontation is nevertheless not that serious. First of all, Shevardnadze's rating is fairly high, particularly among the establishment. And second, only a madman could fail to understand today that additional cataclysms in the political leadership would be fraught with the danger of complete collapse for Georgia.

Artillery Fire Reported Along Eshera-Sukhumi Front

LD0801105993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1019 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Moscow, 8 Jan (ITAR-TASS)—Heavy artillery fire continues along the entire front in the Eshera-Sukhumi sector; the positions have not changed, however, the press service of the Abkhazian permanent mission in Moscow reported today.

According to the data received by the mission from Gudauta by telephone, the situation has stabilized in the zone of guerrilla operations in the Ochamchira-Tkvarchal area; some exchanges of gunfire have been reported.

Power Lines Supplying Sukhumi Sabotaged

LD0801074893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0729 GMT 8 Jan 93

[By ITAR-TASS stringer Tenghiz Pachkoriya]

[Text] Sukhumi January 8 TASS—Homes in Sukhumi enjoyed regular electricity supplies for only four days this year after the trunk powerline in the Ochamchir district had been restored.

According to Georgian military sources and the Sukhumi power supply agency, Abkhazian armed groups planted four mines under the powerline supports near the city of Ochamchir last night. The explosion at four o'clock in the morning damaged the powerline.

According to the same sources, another subversive group tried to infiltrate the facilities of the power supply station Ochamchira-2 but was repelled by the guards. Electricians are working to restore the powerline. It will take them about a week to complete this work.

Estonia

Trade Union Leaders Protest New Draft Wage Scale

WS0701130193 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0843 GMT 6 Jan 93

[From 6 January PAEVALEHT and RAHVA HAAL, p 1]

[Text] 6 January 1993—Estonia's trade union [TU] leaders met in Tallinn on Tuesday [5 January] to discuss the government regulation on new wage draft in state institutions. The TU leaders noted that the government has not kept the principles on social guarantees with the TU. The wages do not correspond to the agreed rate and are not growing 30 percent like promised before. The government also had promised to set the new wages from January 1, the new term was February 1.

The trade unions hoped to see re-establishment of wage proportions in the wage scale before raising the minimum wages. As the government has not followed the agreements made with the trade unions, the trade union leagues considered it necessary to meet the government during which they hope to solve the difference in viewpoints.

Chairman of the Trade Union Central League Raivo Paavo said that in some questions the government still tries to ignore its partners. "Here, the old Labour Ministry handwriting is clearly felt," Paavo assumed. He said that the trade unions can well understand that time is not proper to think of raising minimum wages again with the pension law in such a troublemaking situation. "It is almost impossible to get along with 260-kroon allowance," Paavo marked.

The trade union leaders sent a respective memorandum to the government.

Unguarded Toxic Missile Fuel Poses Threat

WS0701130393 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0843 GMT 6 Jan 93

[From 6 January RAHVA HAAL, p 3]

[Text] 6 January 1993—A fuel depot holding hundreds of tons of highly toxic missile fuel is situated at 5 kilometres from Tallinn. The Russian armed forces have not yet turned over the depot to the Estonian authorities and the territory is held by an unnamed company which is expected to guard the fuel tanks, head of Tallinn Environment Department Aap Mumme said. "Some people may attempt to get their hands on the unguarded fuel tanks," he warned. A city government and Environment Ministry joint commission visited the fuel depot yesterday. No leaks were discovered but the toxic fuel is vaporizing. The situation is complicated by the fact that the fuel depot is situated in the catchment basin of the Ulamiste Lake, Mumme said. The environment authorities are to present a memorandum to the government asking to reglament [word as received] the takeover procedures of military objects and to include representatives of environment protection agencies in the takeover commissions.

Latvia

Godmanis on Energy Supply, IMF, Russian Troops

WS0701130193 Tallinn BNS in English 1532 GMT 4 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 4 January (BNS)—The Latvian Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis said on Monday [4 January] the government's first task in the new year would be the distribution of energy supplies from its stockpiles to those self-governments which have difficulties with energy resources due to cold weather which has set in.

In an interview with the Latvian Radio broadcast live on Monday morning, Godmanis said one of the government's strategic goals would be discussions with the International Monetary Fund on moves to rebuild Latvia's financial and economic system.

He said the government would come forward with its counter-proposals to modify the program worked out by the IMF against the background of crisis in the industry caused by the banks' high interest rates and the floating Latvian ruble exchange rates against the balances of the ruble area countries.

Godmanis pointed out that this in turn had caused huge tax arrears by the country's enterprises and had inflated inventories of these enterprises.

He said industrial leaders should finally realize that if they cannot sell their products at prices set by the enterprise they should sell these goods at prices offered by a potential buyer.

It is not easy but it is definitely better than suffer losses not selling anything, emphasized Godmanis.

He said one of the government's priorities this year would be the implementation of several social programs along with measures aimed at restructuring the economy and more efficient use of investment credits granted by western countries and their financial institutions.

Godmanis said an important issue in 1993 would be "tax collection and how to avert tax evasion" by state and private sector enterprises.

Godmanis said political tasks of the government would center around negotiations with Russia on the withdrawal of its troops from Latvia, adding that the talks would resume soon despite little progress in the previous rounds.

He said a very complicated issue would be the takeover by the Latvian authorities of former Soviet army installations and assets, the process which was not running so smoothly as previously planned.

Finally, he emphasized that during the election campaign the government would not stop working and would not be "silently" awaiting election results.

But he stressed that the government would not tolerate allegations about corruption among the cabinet ministers and said it would bring to justice anybody defaming the government by such unproved statements.

Russia Said Smuggling in Soldiers 'Secretly'

LD0701221793 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2100 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Text] Russia continues sending soldiers for its formations without permission from the Government of Latvia. This is stated by Aleksandrs Doniks, head of the Defense Ministry's Mobilization and Service Administration. This has become known from talks between officials of the Defense Ministry and two soldiers who deserted from the Russian Army. They confirm that 147 young soldiers were secretly brought to Latvia on a warship on 20 November 1992. They were reloaded into containers at the port of Liepaja and transported into the depth of the Latvian state in Kamaz trucks. Latvian border guards have succeeded in halting the open transportation of Russian soldiers to Latvia by railway and air. However, according to Aleksandrs Doniks, the Russian Army in Latvia still feels and behaves as if at home.

Government Forcasting Large Budget Deficit

LD0701180993 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2100 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] The Latvian Government today discussed the draft state budget for this year. According to the calculation of the Finance Ministry, the budget deficit, even taking account of the increase in turnover tax, may reach 19 billion rubles. The government considers that such a great difference between income and expenditure is impermissible. Moreover, the forecast of the Finance Ministry with regard to income seems to the ministers too pessimistic, since there is much evidence that this year the downward slide of the republic's national economy may be suspended, and in individual sectors an upturn in production is expected.

On Sunday the government will once again discuss the draft budget and after that it will be presented for examination to the Supreme Council.

Legislature Rejects Amendments To Citizenship Resolution

WS0701130593 Tallinn BNS in English 1110 GMT 06 Jan 93

[Text] Riga, 6 January 1993 (BNS)—Latvian lawmakers on Tuesday [5 January] rejected amendments and revisions to the resolution of October 28 granting citizenship to persons lived in Latvia before August 1, 1940 and their descendants.

The rejected revisions, moved by the legislative committee head Aivars Endzins, provided to extend term of attesting one's affiliation to the Latvian citizenship by March 1, 1993. [sentence as received] The original attesting deadline expired December 31, 1992.

In regard to the fact that the resolution was never actually put into effect and its term has already expired, several deputies proposed to altogether halt its discussion at the parliament.

The Satversme faction was definitely against the resolution as unwelcome to the process of restoration of a rule-of-law state on the Latvian territory.

MP Andris Plotinieks, however, took a contrary stand, saying that the amendments should be accepted to grant Eastern Latvians equal chances with Western emigrants in proving their citizenship.

After the vote, Aivars Endzins told BNS that the current situation when parliament's resolutions are not effected testified of a power crisis. He is determined to press effecting the resolution by the coming Saeima (parliament) election.

Lithuania

Lubys Holds Talks With Polish Prime Minister

OW0801125693 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1141 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian-Polish talks are to start soon to draft a treaty on good neighborhood and friendship between the two countries. This is said in the joint communique, signed at the end of the working meeting held in the Polish town of Vigry on the border with Lithuania in the evening on Thursday [7 January] between the Lithuanian Prime Minister Bronislovas Lubys and his Polish opposite number, Mrs. Hanna Suchocka.

The Premiers focussed on economic cooperation and agreed that a joint commission would be formed within the next ten days to pave the way for the creation of a free trade zone. Joint projects were mapped out on the basis of international cooperation in shipbuilding, aircraft construction, and other industries.

Mr. Lubys told newsmen after the meeting that the sides had also discussed the possibility of laying a gas pipeline and a power transmission-line from Western Europe to Lithuania via Poland. In his words, "mutual understanding was reached in principle" on these matters. He also revealed that progress had been reached in negotiations on cultural cooperation and on the problems of ethnic minorities in both states.

Mr. Lubys handed to Mrs. Suchocka an invitation to visit Lithuania.

Answering journalists questions after the talks, the Polish Prime Minister replied that her visit could take place already within the first six months of 1993 and "important" bilateral treaties could be signed.

Government's Price Cuts, Wage Increases Viewed

PM0801094593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 1

[Nikolay Lashkevich report: "Lithuanian Government Cuts Prices, Raises Pay"]

[Text] Vilnius—For the first time in over two years food prices have been cut in Lithuania and wages for workers of budget-funded institutions and organizations have been raised.

In our days of a general rise in the cost of living, this is truly sensational news. The new authorities in Lithuania have decided to demonstrate clearly in the new year the value of their election promises: The government has passed several resolutions which make it possible to speak of the prospect of a rise in the living standard of the republic's inhabitants.

Many people in Lithuania have viewed the noticeable reduction in the price of food as a new year's gift. It was made possible by the enactment of a government resolution whereby enterprises engaged in the production and processing of foodstuffs (meat, milk, fish, grain, and so forth) when setting prices for their output are to include in those prices an increment which would ensure a profitability norm no greater than 15 percent. As a result a perceptible blow has been struck against those monopoly enterprises which dictated high prices and which lived scot-free on the proceeds (this sector had the highest level of pay). The government has "hit" other monopolists—food store traders—too. It has restricted the trade markup to 12-18 percent, depending on locality. All these measures have also helped to reduce food prices in Lithuanian stores. And although the reduction is relative (a 200 gram pack of butter now costs 102 Lithuanian coupons as against the old 116; but before that the price was 70-80 coupons), this trend is bound to please consumers.

For the first time since the long wage-freeze policy, the Bronislovas Lubys government has decided to lighten the heavy burden of social problems which Lithuanian citizens have borne since fall last year. A subsistence minimum of 1,920 coupons (around 3,000 rubles) a month and a minimum salary of 2,040 coupons a month have been set in the new year. On 1 January the pay of workers of budget-funded organizations and institutions was raised by 20 percent and the pay of teachers was raised by 30 percent. The government has thus reduced the difference in the pay of workers in the material sphere and that of the so-called budget-funded employees, whose incomes were almost half the former's.

Thus the social democratic orientation in the new Lithuanian leadership's economic policy has been given its first graphic confirmation. Furthermore, people have been given an opportunity to see for themselves that A. Brazauskas and his election-winning team do not make idle promises and will systematically implement their economic program with its clearly expressed function of social protection. Presumably the present Lithuanian leader, who has personally initiated these changes, will win new supporters. Does it need to be said how important this will be at the forthcoming elections to the presidency of Lithuania....

Eight Presidential Candidates Submit Applications

WS0701130493 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1622 GMT 6 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 158]

[Text] 6 January 1993—Until January 5, 12 p.m. eight aspirants for the candidates to the President of the Republic of Lithuania submitted their applications to the electoral commission. They are: Kazimieras Antanvicius, Algirdas Brazauskas, Kazimiras Petraitis, Stasys Lozoraitis, Kazimieras Uoka, Kazys Bobelis, Romualdas Neverdauskas and Remigijus Vilkatis.

Seven of them have been given lists for collection of signatures. Each of them after collecting 20,000 signatures will be registered an official candidate to the President of the Republic of Lithuania. Signatures should be collected until January 20.

Romualdas Neverdauskas has not received the necessary lists for collection of signatures, because he has not presented any documents proving his Lithuanian citizenship.

Three candidates have been nominated by political parties. The DLP [Democratic Labor Party] has nominated the Acting Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas who also is the Chairman of the DLP. A member of the Seimas Kazys Bobelis has been nominated by the Union of Lithuanian Christian Democrats and Kazimieras Petraitis—by the Republican Party.

An MP Kazimieras Antanavicius has ceased his membership within the Social Democrats' Party and is being nominated as an independent candidate. The Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of Lithuania to the U.S.A. Stasys Lozoraitis has never belonged to any political party, though his candidacy is supported by nine political parties and several social political movements. An MP Kazimieras Uoka and the weekly's "Pirmadenis" (Monday) correspondent and actor Remigijus Vilkaitis have also nominated themselves.

Kazimieras Uoka, 42, and Remigijus Vilkaitis, 42, are the youngest among the eight aspirants for the candidates. The oldest one is Kazys Bobelis, 70. Stasys Lozoraitis is a year younger, 69. Algirdas Brazauskas celebrated his 60'th birthday last year. Kazimieras Antanavicius is 56 and Kazimieras Petraitis—66.

According to the law on the presidential election, the Lithuanian President should not be younger than 40.

Brazauskas on Candidacy

WS0701130093 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1619 GMT 6 Jan 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 158]

[Text] 6 January 1993—At yesterday's press conference Acting President Algirdas Brazauskas said he felt no inner urge to become President, however he had been forced by the current situation in the social and political life of Lithuania to stand for the election. He explained that his candidacy had been proposed by the Democratic Labour Party which is now in the majority at the Seimas. It is but natural, A. Brazauskas said, that the political party enjoying the majority of the voters trust wishes to see its candidate as President of the Republic. Meanwhile the right-wing parties, rallying round Stasys Lozoraitis and pinning their hopes on his success, have come forward with a proposal to "cut off", as it were, the ruling top and to set up a new one. Bearing this in mind, Algirdas Brazauskas tried to prognosticate a probable course of events. The newly-elected President makes an attempt to dissolve the Government, however he is not backed up by the majority of the Seimas. After several unsuccessful attempts to dissolve Government, President dissolves the Seimas, thus starting the whole trouble we have recently gone through anew. "How long can we still endure such turmoil?" Algirdas Brazauskas asked.

He also rejected probability of victory by that candidate who is backed up by a greater number of political parties. Consequently, he does not hold that Stasys Lozoraitis stands a better chance of winning the election, though he is backed up by at least nine political parties. Algirdas Brazauskas believes that the outcome of the presidential election is going to be decided by the free will and choice of the 2.5 million electorate. In his opinion, this was proved by last year's May and June referendums as well as by the parliamentary elections.

In Algirdas Brazauskas' view, the upcoming presidential election should put an end to the lengthy fever of political passions and afflictions. We have no alternative but urgent hard work to get out of the abyss of the catastrophic situation of our economy: We should first of all restore the former level of the production and introduce the national currency Litas which would galvanize into renewed functioning the other spheres of life such as culture, education and art as well.

Acting President also spoke about the pressing need for curbing the organized crime underlining the necessity of joining the efforts of the Prosecutor's office, the Ministry of the Interior and the State Security. Perhaps, he said, the challenge of the mafia might be better countered by setting up a special service in the Government or in the President's office and reorganizing the special unit of the defence of the Parliament.

Algirdas Brazauskas also informed the public about the Government's intention to increase the salaries and wages from February 1 depending on the adoption of the 1993 state budget.

Political Neutral Named Chief of Security Services

PM0801092593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Jan 93 Morning Edition p 1

[Nikolay Lashkevich report under the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" roundup: "New Chief for Lithuanian Security Services"]

[Text] Vilnius—The Lithuanian Seimas has endorsed the new general director of the republic State Security Services.

He is Jurgis Jurgialis, deputy in the former Lithuanian Supreme Soviet. He is one of the few Lithuanian politicians who, in all his years of working in parliament, did not join any republic factions or political organizations. J. Jurgialis was part of the Lithuanian parliament's commission for investigating KGB activity, and spoke out repeatedly against the "witch-hunt" organized by the leadership of that commission. As J. Jurgialis told journalists, the security services should not serve any one party or personality, and must be guided only by the law.

Seimas Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics

WS0701130793 Tallinn BNS in English 1507 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Text] Vilnius, 6 January 1993 (BNS)—The Lithuanian Seimas resolved to recognize the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic as two independent states and establish diplomatic relations with both of them.

Seimas Preparing To Discuss 1993 Budget

OW0701171193 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1616 GMT 7 Jan 93

[Following item transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the regulations of the Lithuanian Seimas (the Lithuanian parliament), on Thursday it usually conducts its plenary sessions. However, the parliamentarians decided to take a week interval in order to thoroughly discuss the draft bill on the state budget for 1993 submitted by the Prime Minister Bronislavas Lubys in the factions and parliamentary commissions.

The discussion of the budget at plenary sessions is to begin on January 14. At the same time the acting chairman of the Seimas Cheslovas Jurshenas reported to BALTFAX that an extraordinary session of the parliament is scheduled for January 12. He pointed out that a special session of the Seimas devoted to the 2nd anniversary of the tragic events in Vilnius in January, 1991, would apparently be held on January 13.